



THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017

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70P WHERE SOLD

LIVES 'PUT AT RISK' IF HUMPS GO

Report by Jonny Drury

REMOVING speed bumps in towns and villages will increase traffic speeds and put lives at risk in Oswestry and border villages according to a road safety campaigner and a councillor.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove has told local councils to remove speed bumps in an effort to tackle the problem of pollution in the UK. He said councils should be prioritising "improving road layouts and junctions to optimise traffic flow."

This includes the removal of speed humps. But now concerns have been raised that removing humps will increase the risk of accidents. Oswestry Rural parish councillor Rob Milton said speed bumps are key in villages and towns, for example in Morda where humps in front of the school have helped to reduce traffic speeds.

He said: "Speed bumps cut speeding traffic and are there to safeguard people. "The Government have got to choose one or the other. Maybe if they are going to take out speed bumps they could introduce a lot more 20mph zones with speed cameras."

"You just have to look at the speed bumps through Morda and past the primary school, they've brought the speed of cars in the village down over the years."

Road safety campaigner Dot Basham has been calling for traffic measures to be introduced in Gobowen for years. The village currently has no speed bumps. She said: "Some are in St Martins and Morda and to take them away will just be suicidal."

"It will give boy racers a free rein to go as fast as they want."

"The speed traffic comes through Gobowen is so bad, our fight to put measures in place is continuing."

A Government report says speed bumps double emissions causing vehicles to repeatedly slow down and speed up.

Welshpool county councillor Graham Breeze is backing the idea to remove the speed bumps. He said: "People don't like the increase in noise as cars speed up between bumps, and personally I'm not in favour of them, they cause damage to cars."

"Flashing speed signs work better. When drivers see a flashing sign telling you what speed you are going you hit the brakes."

It's not good to talk as BT takes phone box



Charles Roberts had campaigned to save the red phone box

WHEN a red telephone box that residents in Knockin campaigned to save went missing, they assumed it had been stolen.

But now it has transpired that the kiosk was taken away by BT after only one call had been made from it in the last year.

The telephone box was removed by the telephone company on Saturday afternoon after it consulted with Shropshire Council over its future. The unitary authority in turn asked Knockin Parish Council for its thoughts and councillors gave the go-ahead.

But the news was a complete shock for campaigner, Charles Roberts, one of those who have been looking after the telephone box since BT last proposed to take it away three years ago.

Mr Roberts, who lives just a few yards from where the box was situated in Kinnerley Road, had only just repainted it on the outside and

cleaned it regularly. He said: "I can't believe it. The red telephone box is a symbol of village life in Britain."

"At the beginning of 2015 we were successful in persuading BT that the box should stay if we promised to maintain it," he said.

"We spent about five weeks repairing and painting the box with special BT red paint and then every five weeks we would have to clean it. For the telephone box to be taken away after all the hard work we have done is unbelievable. It is very sad."

A BT spokesperson said: "BT is committed to providing a public payphone service, but with usage declining by over 90 per cent in the last decade, we've continued to review and remove payphones which are no longer needed."

"Any removal of payphones is carried out in strict adherence to the Ofcom guidelines."

POLITICS

Council back in action months after election snub

A COMMUNITY council is back in action three months after all its councillors refused to stand for election due to a dispute over pylons routes in the area.

In the run-up to May's election Trefeglwys Community Council was on the verge of ceasing after all of its councillors refused to stand for election.

This followed a three-year dispute with a former clerk regarding pylons routes and a host of freedom of information requests made to the council.

Councillors said in a letter to Powys County Council at the time that the conflict was having an effect on their ability to serve the community. The dispute sparked investigations by the information commissioner, local council organisation One Voice Wales and the police.

When no councillors stood for re-election, nearby county councillors filled the void to keep the council operating.

After assurances have been given to all the former councillors following a meeting with the Dyfed Powys Police police and crime commissioner, they have decided to stand for re-election.

Ten nominations have been received for 10 positions and the council will be back up and running by August 12.

LEISURE

Call to keep show as one-day event

WELL over 15,000 people packed into the Oswestry Showground on Saturday for the annual Oswestry Show.

Chairman, Mr Nigel Whittingham, paid tribute to the volunteers who work behind the scenes to make it a success both on the day and in the weeks beforehand.

He said he would be against any suggestions that Oswestry show could be held over two days.

"My view is, if it isn't broken, don't fix it," he said.

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INSIDE

Art inspired by nature on show



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Campaigner Dot Basham

Win could be brewing for Stonehouse

AN Oswestry business is in the running to be named the UK's most popular brewery.

Stonehouse Brewery has been shortlisted for the award run by Trip Advisor's holiday lettings website.

Owners Shane and Alison Parr are urging people to vote for Stonehouse before the closing date on August 18.

Alison said: "It's a bit of an honour really because there are some big breweries on the list."

"Stonehouse is the only brewery in the West Midlands on the short-list but we face competition from the likes of Tring, Wychwood and Sharps breweries."

"We do get visitors from all over the world come into the brewery," she added.

The brewery which receives the most votes will be crowned the UK's Most Popular Brewery 2017 on August 21. To vote visit <https://blog.holidaylettings.co.uk/vote-uk-most-popular-brewery/>.

New hospital chair video a YouTube hit

A VIDEO demonstrating a new piece of equipment at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital has gone viral with over six million views on YouTube.

The League of Friends at the hospital were keen to thank donors who donated towards a new patented emergency lifting chair so decided to make a video for their Facebook page to show how it works.

Currently the video has been viewed over six million times.

The video features Linda Head, moving and handling co-ordinator at the hospital, who demonstrates the new chair with the help of Elaine Tinsley, the league's accounts officer playing the part of a patient.

It is used to effortlessly transfer a patient from the floor to a sitting or standing position. Director of the league of friends Victoria Sugden said they are now planning more videos. She said: "Elaine has become a movie star overnight."

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Last chance given by court to addict caught dealing

By Dominic Robertson

A WOMAN has been handed a chance to end her drug addiction after being caught dealing in heroin and cocaine.

Laura Howell, aged 30, was given a suspended sentence when she appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court via a video link from prison.

Judge Jonathan Gosling told Howell that a lot of people were prepared to help her, but he warned her that the opportunity would not be offered again.

He told the defendant he accepted she was not cynically selling drugs from her home but had been under the spell of other people.

Howell, of Castlefields, Oswestry, had admitted two charges of being in possession of heroin and cocaine with intent to supply in January this year.

At court she was given a two-year prison sentence, suspended for two years, and made subject to a drug testing and rehabilitation order.

Tests

In addition she will attend the Willowdean rehabilitation centre and must subsequently live where approved by the probation service and be subject to regular drugs' tests.

The court heard that Howell had been a drug addict for a considerable time and had 10 previous convictions for shoplifting.

Miss Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said police found 10 wraps of heroin and three wraps of cocaine, with a street value of around £130, in a make-up case at Howell's home.

Officers also recovered £130 in cash and found a series of text messages on her mobile phone which related to the supply of drugs.

When arrested Howell had tested positive for cocaine and told police she had been 'bullied' into looking after the drugs.

Mr John Hedgecoe, for Howell, said his client had been living in a squat and had been coerced by other dealers and received drugs to feed her own habit, but was determined to take the chance to end her addiction.

Nature and wildlife in the frame at centre



Watercolour painter Jo Halden at the new exhibition at Oswestry Visitor & Exhibition Centre

FOR those passionate about nature and wildlife there's a new art exhibition which fits the bill.

The latest display at Oswestry Heritage and Exhibition Centre features the work of Jo Halden and Pam Rundle.

Jo, from Ightfield near Whitchurch, is a self-taught artist who paints realistic watercolour pieces and is inspired by people, animals and the Shropshire landscape.

"I've been painting forever," she said. "I've got 15 paintings hanging up for the month-long exhibition and there are some other unframed pieces too."

Pam, who lives in Powys with her husband and four dogs, is showing off her wildlife sculptures.

The unique hand-built sculptures are made using thin slabs and small pieces of clay and built up over a newspaper base like

a puzzle or mosaic.

Her sculptures have been sold as far afield as Luxembourg, Holland, Germany, Canada, Australia, America and Hawaii, and a portion of each sale Pam donates to wildlife and animal rescue and conservation charities.

Their work will be on display throughout August in the Oswestry Heritage and Exhibition Centre in Church Terrace.

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Top metal detectorist to try out business

AN Oswestry-based business is to welcome some of the top names in the metal detecting world.

Jocelyn Elizabeth, an internationally known blogger and 'relic recoverist' is to visit the county to try out the Metal Detecting Holidays company.

She will be joined by personalities from the National Geographic Channel's Diggers television show.

Chris Langston, who founded the company, said: "Television hobbyist metal detectorists King George Wyant and his buddy Tim 'The Ringmaster' Saylor travel the country looking for lost relics of history. They are invited by landowners, historians and archaeologists to go on a quest, to unearth history that would have otherwise been forgotten."

"Jocelyn is renowned worldwide in the metal detecting scene and is from the United States."

Local history enthusiast and metal detectorist Mr Langston has joined up with Oswestry entrepreneurs Louise Idoux and John Flaherty, to start the company.

They will be taking care of the accommodation, while Mr Langston deals with the detecting side of the guests' holiday.

"We currently have permission to detect on over 1000 acres of historically rich farmland. The areas we detect are steeped in history going back thousands of years," he said.

Cleaner pleads not guilty to stealing

A cleaner has appeared in court over allegations she stole jewellery and other items valued at more than £6k from homes where she worked.

Caroline Carkeet-James, 46, of Summerfield Close, Oswestry, pleaded not guilty to four charges of theft and one of burglary. She was granted unconditional bail and will appear at Shrewsbury Crown Court on August 29

Race the Train will go on despite poor turnout

By Jonny Drury

A challenge that pits cyclists against a train will go ahead in 2018 despite a poor turnout this year.

Welshpool's annual 'Race the Train' took place last Sunday, but organisers were left disappointed after only 13 cyclists turned out for the nine-mile ride to Llanfair Caerinion.

The event usually takes place in September, however this year it was moved to July 30. The lack of entries has caused concern for the Rotary Club organisers who have decided to switch the event back to September for next year.

Overall £130 was raised this year compared to £180 last year.

Previously the race took place on foot and attracted hundreds of competitors. It ended due to safety reasons but was revived as a cycle challenge and was organised by the Rotary Club with town council support.

Town clerk Robert Robinson, who helps run the race, said: "Despite this year it will go ahead, it is a good event for the area."

"It is not always about numbers, it is about putting things on for people in the town."

On the day the cyclists won, with Ryan Griffiths of Llansantffraid finishing the course in 30 minutes and 42 seconds.

Ten of the 13 cyclists beat the train but the course record of 27 minutes and 35 seconds set by Ashley Banks was untouched.

The clerk has also announced that Welshpool Carnival's date will be moving. Traditionally it is held on the May bank holiday weekend at the same time as the Welshpool Music Festival.

Mr Robinson said: "We've moved it to August 4 as it clashes with the weekend of the music festival."

"It is no criticism of the music festival but we don't have the lorry drivers to drive the floats the next day as they are at the music festival the day before, so we've decided to move it."

"We think it will be better, we know it clashes with the Oswestry Show next year but if you have an event it will always clash with something. We've moved the times of things so it won't clash with peak traffic."

Zest over peaks brings in £3,000



The Three Peaks team for Zest Gym in Oswestry giving Val Brown from Alzheimer's Shropshire a £3,000 cheque

A team of fit friends have raised over £3,000 for charity by completing the gruelling Three Peaks challenge in under 24 hours.

The women from Zest Gym in Oswestry scaled Ben Nevis in Scotland, Snowden in Wales and Scafell Pike in England with just 13 minutes to spare, raising money for the Alzheimer's Society.

Pauline Lacey, Zest owner said: "We chose Alzheimer's Society because dementia has affected so

many people we all know and funding is badly needed."

"Our Zest members and their families, friends and colleagues have been so supportive – they have surpassed themselves yet again with their generosity. Our Zest members have sponsored us for hundreds of pounds, attended special events, including a cake sale, making cakes to sell whilst the team were in action on the mountains. One of our members – Jenny Whittall even per-

suaded her partner to co-drive our mini bus for the team."

"We firmly believe that exercise can help with delaying dementia, studies support this and if you come and see our older ladies in action – you will see how amazing they are."

Mikaela Warbuton, gym instructor added: "I was one of the younger members of the team, our ages ranged from 21 to 58, just proving that age really is no barrier to fitness."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Alert given over mountain risks

SEARCH and rescue teams are asking people to take care on the hills on Wales.

The Aberdyfi search and rescue team was called out to two walkers lost in low cloud on Cader Idris near Dolgellau earlier this summer.

Volunteers set out at around 5.20 pm to search for the man and woman from Kent.

But spokesman Graham O'Hanlon said that with little information with which to work, and with the informant's phone going straight to voicemail, the team had to search the Mynydd Moel area of the mountain before they were found and led to safety. He said walkers had to be aware that conditions could change quickly in the mountains.

Truly putting our town on the map

OSWESTRY Library has launched a project to put the town on the map.

Councillor Paul Milner recently unveiled the A to Z Map of Oswestry at the Willow Gallery.

It features 26 people, places and things in the town chosen by the people of Oswestry, including H for Holbach House, I for the Iron-Age Hillfort and W for Wilfred Owen.

The map, designed by artist John Shackell, comes in colour or black and white to colour yourself and is on sale in shops around Oswestry.

You can find all the A to Z images, their stories, and contact details at www.oswestrycivicsociety.org.uk

Theatre staging annual fun day

A theatre company is holding a fun day this weekend.

Oswestry Musical Theatre Company's annual fun day takes place on Saturday from 10am to 4pm in Cae Glas Park, Oswestry.

There will be games, trampolines, food stalls, music and more. Money raised from the event, organised by member Danielle Edwards in conjunction with Oswestry Town Council, will go to the theatre company.

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Gilbert Bradley – love letters

Forbidden love inspires art challenge

Unrequited, forbidden, and unforgotten love will be celebrated as part of an art project inspired by love letters exchanged by Second World War soldiers.

'Gilbert and Gordon: Then All The World Could See How In Love We Are' is a project based around

the letters sent between infantryman Gordon Bowsher and his Oswestry-based lover, Gilbert Bradley.

The letters, which stopped in 1944 as the couple went on to live separate lives, were discovered after Gilbert Bradley's death and are on

display at Oswestry Town Museum.

Artist Olivia Winteringham is inviting people to compose their own love letters at CultureFest on August 19. The letters will then be committed to a Flame of Remembrance.

Over the Heritage Open Days

weekend in September, the letters will feed a memorial flame of remembrance and the ashes will be gathered and transformed into a commemorative diamond ring.

There are more than 300 letters from Gordon, written between 1939 and 1944, which are on show.

Volunteers sought to light up lives of town's elderly

Report by Jonny Drury

AGE UK Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin is putting plans in place for a fresh intake of volunteers in Oswestry to ensure services continue to run smoothly.

Oswestry Day Centre at Monkmoor Court, off Middleton Road, is looking for an additional volunteer to join their team on Thursdays.

Members of St Martin's day centre at Cedar Close community room meet every Tuesday and they need a volunteer who would relish the role of organiser.

Solo show for prog rock star

ONE of the leading figures in 'prog rock' is set to perform in Oswestry next month.

West Country musician Martin Turner, co-founder of Wishbone Ash, will play in front of crowds at the Lion Quays on September 17.

Bass player Turner formed Wishbone Ash with Steve Upton back in 1969, and embarked on a musical journey. The band became known for their use of harmony twin lead guitar and reached their commercial peak in 1972 with the Argus album which reached number three in the chart and was voted best rock album of the year by the readers of Sounds magazine.

Turner has since enjoyed a career that has seen him perform all over the world.

Tickets for his Oswestry appearance are priced at £25 and are available from www.booking.com

Heather Osborne, chief executive of Age UK STW, said: "Members attending the day centres look forward to the change of scene. Our volunteers ensure the weekly visit to a day centre is spent in good company, with refreshments, a hot meal and activities laid on. Our day centres run from 10am until 3pm, so we are looking for volunteers who would be able to commit to this once a week."

Isolated

Heather added: "Volunteering with us is a great way to meet like-minded people who are happy to give some of their time to improving the lives of isolated older people living in our communities."

The charity's donated furniture shop, on Oswestry's Red Square, is also seeking volunteer retail assistants, van drivers and drivers' mates to ensure its continued success. The charity shop also wants to hear from students looking for voluntary work in the retail sector over the summer.

Potential volunteers can call Claire or Janice at Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin on 01743 588570. Full training and support will be provided.

Plant fair a blooming success



Visitors to the Plant Hunters' fair, now in its third year, at the British Ironworks Centre

A record crowd of keen gardeners arrived for an annual Plant Hunters' fair, now in its third year.

With money raised for Hope House Children's Hospices and an unprecedented amount of support, the event at the British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry was a tremendous success.

The centre played host to some of the most highly respected nurseries in the country as well as small specialist growers.

It also welcomed Dr Steve Reynolds, one of the region's experts on plant problems,

who focussed on offering advice about plant diseases and health issues, how to combat bugs and more.

Other attractions included Shropshire Wildlife Trust and live music from Effervescent a singer/songwriter trio.

Clive Knowles chairman of the centre, said: "The fair proved to be an inspiring day for all visitors who were able to browse the unique plants and specialist nurseries, while enjoying our centre."

The next Plant Hunters' fair is in April 2018.

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Call for safety discussions after man's death at show

Report by Jonny Drury

A CALL for increased safety has been made after the death of a young farmer attending the Royal Welsh Show.

Royal Welsh Agricultural Society chief executive Steve Hughson said discussions would be taking place over ways to improve safety at the Builth Wells event in the future. Nineteen-year-old James Corfield, of Montgomery was found in the River Wye a week after he was last seen.

International horse show is on its way

A prestigious six-day international horse jumping festival is coming to Oswestry and will offer a major boost to the local economy.

Usually held in Stafford, the Alexanders Horseboxes Scope Festival brings together 2,000 show jumping competitors of all ages from the UK and beyond to compete for some of the top prizes.

It is the first time that international show jumping has come to Shropshire, and the festival will celebrate its 20th year at the Oswestry Showground between August 20 and 26.

Wendy Dodwell, events secretary said organisers are excited about the new venue.

She said: "We wanted to take the festival somewhere and Oswestry is a great location for us. There is prize money of £150,000 up for grabs in a number of different events, and people have been working to qualify all year.

"It is a very good move for us, we're are very excited about it and we look forward to working with Park Hall showground."

"It is great for Oswestry as it brings in lots of people who stay in the hotels and spend money in the local shops."

Admission to the event is free and car parking is £5 per car.

He said: "There are a number of different events around the show, such as the YFC village where James was staying, and in Builth Wells town from where he tragically went missing.

"There are a number of difficult elements to this, and I have already called for a multi-agency meeting to see how we can work together improve safety measures.

"I have heard talk of fencing along the river, but that is not for the Royal Welsh Show.

"We take our responsibilities very seriously but this is not something we can do on our own, we have to work with the police, the local authorities, the young people's village and licensees in Builth Wells."

Volunteers

Hundreds of volunteers had taken part in the efforts to try and find him. Mr Hughson said the show had addressed safety measures after previous deaths at the event.

"Something must happen to improve safety and we must come together with all other bodies, we can't just do it on our own.

"We have to look at making improvements but with being in event planning I know you can't eliminate all risk."

The chief executive said they need to establish the facts around James' death to ensure they can make effective safety changes.

He said: "There are always lessons to be learned and that is why we have called for the multi-agency meeting and dates are looking to be set to see what we can do to reduce safety risks."

"It was a successful show but this was extremely sad and we want to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Montgomery's cricket teams were holding a minute's applause before their matches last weekend in James' memory.

Patient, 61, to tackle triathlon



Mary Gowers, who is a long-standing patient at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen

A WOMAN who suffers from arthritis and has fought off a rare form of cancer is about to tackle her first triathlon at the age of 61.

Mary Gowers has paid tribute to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen and says she wouldn't be able to take on the challenge without them.

She is taking part in the Superheroes Para Triathlon event on August 19, despite receiving treatment at the hospital for inflammatory arthritis and damaged rotator cuffs, as well as suffering from fibromyalgia. In 2003, Mary also had surgery for a rare form of cancer called synovial sarcoma.

She said: "I know how incredibly lucky

I am and that's all thanks to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital. That's why I've chosen to raise funds for this wonderful hospital."

In preparation for the event, Mary, who is from Ruthin in North Wales, spends her free time swimming, cycling and running in preparation for the big day. She said: "For this event I have re-learned how to ride a bike after losing muscle from my right leg 15 years ago. I was told I would have very limited use of the leg, but thanks to physio, and stubbornness, I can do most things."

You can donate via her JustGiving page, which can be found at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mary-gowers1

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Athletics is a sport seemingly unable to shake itself free of doping scandal after doping scandal, so proven drugs cheat Justin Gatlin winning a World Championships 100 metres gold medal was probably the worst possible thing to happen.

The world was ready to celebrate the retirement of Usain Bolt, its greatest hero, last weekend but Gatlin was the biggest farewell party pooper of all time.

Why was Gatlin allowed to compete after twice being banned from the sport for breaking the strict code on drug use?

Ironically Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill joined in the debate after emotionally receiving the heptathlon gold medal from the 2011 World Championships, originally denied her by a Russian drugs cheat.

Gatlin was twice found guilty by the World Anti-Doping Agency and for me that means he should never be allowed to compete on any athletics stage again – full stop. What kind of message does this send to any youngster competing at any level in the sport? It tells them it might just be worth taking a chance, that's what she says.

As it turned out Bolt was clearly not fit enough to claim his expected gold but his final sprint and last track appearance will for ever be tainted – as will the sport.

But perhaps this incident – the most public of all drug related sporting incidents – will prove to be the catalyst to clean up athletics once and for all.

Are we finally getting somewhere on a decision to go out to public consultation about the future of hospital care in Shropshire? Will this week's meeting of health leaders following the independent review really get the process underway?

It certainly is to be hoped so because if like me you have experienced the inside of either of the county's main hospitals at Shrewsbury or Telford recently you will have witnessed unacceptable delays for patients and unforgivable levels of stress being placed on an overworked staff who simply can't do their jobs properly.

One politician this week said the service was at breaking point but surely it is the politicians who are to blame. It's unfortunate that local and national elections have coincided with hospital talks because political candidates have allowed personal ambitions to cloud their judgements and patients and staff have become pawns in the big game. Let's hope that's all behind us now.



Fire authority chairman Councillor Eric Carter



West Mercia police commissioner John Campion



Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service's headquarters

Blazing row over future of county's fire service

A war of words is raging over the future of the county's fire service. Report by JONNY DRURY.

THE battle over the future of the fire service continues to rage with the county's fire authority members lining up to pour cold water on plans from the region's police and crime commissioner.

The latest development in the bid from John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, to take over the governance of Shropshire, Hereford, and Worcestershire fire services, has seen the county's fire officials back a report that rubbished the Conservative politician's proposals.

It is the latest step in what has become a protracted row over the future of the service.

In the wake of the report Mr Campion has issued a robust defence of his plans and risked pouring more petrol on the fire by branding the fire-service-commissioned report as a "hatchet job".

The latest shots were fired following the publication of a consultancy report requested by the fire service to examine Mr Campion's business case. The report warns that the plan, predicted to save as much as £4 million by Mr Campion, would mean lost jobs and a loss of local accountability.

Chair of the authority and councillor for Newport Eric Carter has been fiercely against move from the outset. He described Mr Campion's claims that the



Would fire services link better with ambulance rather than police services?

merger would bring more accountability to the fire service as "laughable", and said the current system did not need fixing. He said: "It has been quite clear that people aren't happy with a lack of local accountability. His claim of greater accountability is laughable, as is the idea of having one man run it all from a room in Worcestershire. It would take away the fact that the 42 people representing the fire service are elected, and they were elected by a bigger majority than the police and crime commissioner."

Despite the criticism Mr Campion has insisted that his proposals will provide a better service for the public. Speaking when he revealed the plans he said: "Our fire and rescue services are hard-working, professional organ-

isations that deliver a good service to our communities.

However, their full potential for effectiveness and efficiency is harder to achieve within current governance and operational models. Limited collaboration with each other and the police force has gone on up to now, but this must be strengthened, deepened and accelerated if all our services are to deliver the best results they are capable of.

"I want to build on the good foundations set by our fire and rescue authorities to deliver modern, innovative fire and rescue services that lead the way nationally."

Mr Campion's plans have been greeted with considerable scepticism from the fire authorities as well as Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

Council. A recent poll also saw 78 per cent of respondents indicating that they want the governance of the services to remain separate. The latest report also suggests that the fire service would link better with the ambulance service, rather than the police, going as far as to claim that no other Western country has united the services in the same manner. The consultants' report raises considerable concern over how the proposed £4 million of cuts will be achieved. It states that it does not believe the savings can be made without a "significant headcount reduction".

Mr Campion's proposal has been put forward as a result of new legislation which allows police and crime commissioners to take over fire services in a bid for a more 'joined up approach'.

Con

However, public figures and councillors on Shropshire Fire Authority have again reiterated their belief that the commissioner is "empire building".

Councillor for Ercall, Miles Hosken said: "This is a big public con and it is empire building. This is a despicable attempt to bring together two public services that are poles apart."

Mr Campion now has four weeks to consider the report before submitting a full business case to the Home Office.

Councillor Nigel Hartin, Lib Dem leader on Shropshire Council, has called for the consultation period to be extended. The debate clearly still has some way to run, with both Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council yet to submit official responses.

However one thing is certain and that is that both the fire service and Mr Campion are standing their ground.

Both are firm in their positions in what is best for the fire service and there is little agreement between the two.

WORKING FOR YOU



Last weekend, I attended the 132nd Oswestry Show at the Park Hall Showground. With attendance estimated at 15,000 the Show is a great exhibition of North Shropshire's agricultural industry and farming community.

It has an extremely long and successful history, having held its first Show on 3rd October 1862; it continues to grow from strength to strength.

The Oswestry Show exists today, in part, due to one of my predecessors John Ralph Ormsby Gore of Brogyntyn, the Conservative Member of Parliament for North Shropshire from 1859 to 1876.

After having founded the Oswestry and District Agricultural Society, he and 60 farmers held their first meetings at the Wynnstay Hotel. The Society's objectives included the production of better quality food, greater quantities of food and improvement of the conditions of the farm labourer. Hosting a local annual show would enable farmers and landowners to examine new farm machinery in addition to encouraging them to consider different breeds of stock and new varieties of produce. True to these noble and original objectives, this year there was another fine selection of high quality stock, cattle, large numbers of sheep and rare breeds.

Tirelessly

There was a strong horse section with a wide variety of horses being shown. The Society has attracted this year's Scope Festival UK Supreme Championship show jumping competition from Staffordshire Showground. This could be the start of something big for the future; the venue would be ideal for future national equestrian events.

The Show succeeds because it has something for everyone, as lots of attendees come from Oswestry town.

I was tasked with judging the Non Agricultural Trade Stand. Judging was extremely difficult with such tremendous competition; I awarded it to Stans Superstore in St. Martins, who are celebrating their 70th year.

The Show was such a success thanks to the huge amount of effort put in by volunteers who year after year work tirelessly to build on the success of the previous year. My thanks go to this year's President Steve Mosford and his wife Jane and the whole team. Even the rain did little to deter those coming from across the county and across the Welsh border to enjoy a day out.

By Owen Paterson MP

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Lib Dems should join new coalition

POLITICS in the United Kingdom is changing and the parliamentary parties that represent their members need to change as well.

All the hype over Labour's share of the election vote is just that, and maybe when we have another election they will win the highest number of seats with the Conservatives being second, but the chances of Labour and Conservatives gaining outright majorities is becoming less likely with every

election, because a new generation of voters are taking part. If we look at the Liberal Democrats we see a party that talks about this wonderful new prosperous country being created under a Liberal Democrat government err no, Tim Farron ran the election on a platform that very few people would vote for. The party could be a major player in future elections and the running of this country if they just change their approach to their manifesto promises just as

Nick Clegg fell foul to his party's promise on tuition fees which should never have been in their manifesto.

I believe the Liberal Democrats should again be in a coalition with the Conservatives and be a major player influencing the governing of this country and that can only be good because no matter what people say they did form a successful coalition.

ARTHUR EVANS
Ketley

All aboard the free Tesco bus in 1994



This picture was sent in by Barry J. Fenn, of Hadley, Telford. His details are this is 'Williamson of Knockin, near Oswestry, on a free Tesco bus, taken in March 1994.' Location not given but is obviously not Knockin.

Remember that we do live in a democratic land

WHY vote? A very good question. Last year, in June, we had a referendum. We took the trouble to vote and the decision was made.

Yet many did not accept the result, and said those who voted in the majority got it wrong.

In Scotland, a referendum was held about independence, most voted to stay as part of the UK.

The SNP have continued to campaign for a second referendum because either the majority were wrong or they did not know what they were voting for.

We, as you know, have just had an election yet the party with 262 seats in the House of Commons had two of their leaders claim that they have won when the other party has 318 seats.

It would appear that although we are told that we live in a democratic society to some it does not matter.

Those who were out-voted do not accept the result of a legal secret ballot. Yet we still believe we have a democracy.

J HOWELL
Lydbury North

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

ian.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

It is time to look at the basics again

THE crisis in the National Health Service regarding cyber attacks prompt a huge rethink about computers in every aspect of our lives.

Scrap the computers.

Return to paper files.

Abolish all credit and debit cards.

Use cash or cheques.

Transactions might be slower and tedious.

But it would get rid of all the hackers and computer scams.

W F KERSWELL
Picklestcott

We must insist on investment in green energy

THE serious implications of climate change and the deterioration of our living environment upon which we all rely were hardly mentioned in the general election campaign.

Talk about economics did not mention that we cannot eat or drink money and that current economic policies are undermining the earth's capacity to sustain us.

Over the next few years major decisions about, and investments in, UK energy infrastructure will be made.

We must insist that the necessary coal phase-out does not lead to an increase in gas, fracking, big biomass or new nuclear.

We must be against all forms of dirty energy and instead work for genuine low-carbon renewables, especially community renewables.

We have the technology and public backing for sustainable, clean and equitable energy production and must insist that the government invest and encourage it.

ANGIE ZELTER
Knighton

Thanks Ron, but job of clearing footpaths is never finished

I WAS interested to read the article about Ron Bond retiring from the task of clearing footpaths.

As someone who has worked with Ron in the past, I pay tribute to his long years of dedication.

As he says the work must now be done by someone else and with a diminishing source of funding from the county council, it has become clear that unless people value their rights of way and are prepared to work to keep them open, we will lose them altogether.

Fortunately in recent years there has been a growth in the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) movement under the guidance of Shropshire Council with groups formed at Oswestry, Trefonen and Knockin with more coming along at Goboven and St. Martins.

Despite having just a handful of members, the Oswestry P3 which covers both the Town and Rural parishes has over the last 15 months been instrumental in clearing and improving many footpaths; the replaced four timber plank bridges and installed 14 kissing gates to replace rickety stiles. These actions have brought access to the countryside within the scope of many more people.

But as Ron will testify the work never ends; brambles and nettles keep growing and paths need frequent attention if they are to remain an asset to the community and, frankly, we could do with some help.

Anyone who wishes to join a group, or perhaps set up a one in their own parish, can contact Shropshire Council's Parish Paths Partnership co-ordinator Helen Beresford on 01743 255957 or email helen.beresford@shropshire.gov.uk

PETER DANBY
Via email

Young thought of themselves

AMAZING – once the youth of this nation decide to vote, almost putting Labour in power with that leader.

Canterbury, the great example of the Tory Party losing after 99 years. The bait of no student fees to pay did it all down there. Alan Sugar has it right when he says they may be educated, but have no worldly experience etc. As a great politician, possibly one of the best leaders the world ever had, once said: "Think not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

The youth certainly did not do that, but just thought of themselves. The carrot thrown at them was just too much to miss.

L THOMAS
Wellington

Austria – Cow's Down Festival

The winter ski resort of Fügen becomes our summer touring centre for this beautiful Austrian alpine region. Nestling in the Zillertal valley beneath towering mountain peaks this elegant town is an ideal base to explore some of the many attractions in the area. The itinerary features a guided tour of Innsbruck, a train ride a boat ride, and of course, the 'Cow's Return', a simple but colourful village festival that celebrates the return of the animals to the village after spending the summer on the mountain pastures.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire service faces new challenges

MID and West Wales Fire Service has warned that it may have to make difficult decisions to save money in the future.

Bosses say they have already saved £9 million – nearly 20 per cent of its budget – since 2006 without impacting on the services.

However they warn they are facing an even more challenging situation.

The service has launched an online public consultation and is urging people to take part.

Spokesman Aled Lewis, said: "We have achieved savings by changing the way some of the stations are crewed and by refining some of our business processes.

"To date we have been able to make savings without negatively impacting on the services we deliver.

"Even though we have already achieved this, there is no avoiding the fact that we are entering an even more challenging financial future."

Plans released for royal baton relay

PLANS have been released for the Queen's Baton Relay which is coming to Welshpool in September.

The Commonwealth Games will be held in 2018 in the Gold Coast, and in a few weeks time the Queen's Baton Relay will begin and lead right up to the games.

Welshpool is one of the venues chosen for the relay, which will come through on September 7 as the baton spends one day in Mid Wales.

The event will be at Welshpool High School, and at noon the mayor will open 'Welshpool Games' which includes 16 teams and will light the games torch. Later in the day the Powys County Council chairman and the mayor will present medals, before the baton relay passes through.

College celebrates top notch science results

Report by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY'S North Shropshire College is celebrating its Level 3 BTEC Applied Science results – the highest ever achieved in the college's history.

More than half the students attending achieved the highest grade of D* D* D* – Triple Starred Distinction.

The course has consistently seen students achieving high grades in recent years, but the number of students achieving the highest grade has increased this year.

Programme leader Shôn Prebble said that to achieve the D* D* D* grade, equivalent to three A grades at A level and one at AS Level, students must consistently achieve distinction grades in the units that make up the course.

She said: "These fantastic results are testament to the hard work and dedication of both our students and their tutors.

"The students have worked incredibly hard over the two years and have been a pleasure to teach.

"As well as their work on assignments, the students have taken part in a range of extracurricular activities and visits to professional laboratories and universities to develop their scientific skills.

"These skills, together with the high grades, have meant that not only are students moving on with excellent qualifications, many are heading off to university with unconditional offers."

For more information on the Applied Science course, contact s.prebble@nsc.ac.uk or attend the college's Advice and Guidance Evening on August 30.

The guidance evening runs from 4pm to 8pm at the Oswestry Campus.

New president takes office at club



John Croft handing the chain of office to new president, Sherie Soper

OSWESTRY'S Borderland Rotary Club held its end of year handover ceremony at the Sweeney Hall Hotel on the outskirts of the town.

Outgoing club president John Croft had the honour of handing the chain of office to new president, Sherie Soper.

The new president said she was looking forward to another successful year in rotary.

She thanked all the members for their support for the organisation.

An extra presentation was made at the president's handover.

Long serving member and current club treasurer Alan Poole, who was president in 2009, was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship.

Mr Poole joined the rotary club in 2000.

Mr Poole soon became community service chair of the group.

One of Mr Poole's responsibilities was running the mountain bike challenge which is one of borderland's flagship events attended by hundreds of participants.

Mr Poole has also served on the international and foundation committees of the organisation.

Changes to community asset rules are agreed

COMMUNITY groups will have to provide more detailed information to register 'assets of community value' in future.

Shropshire Council's cabinet has approved changes to the authority's regulations on its 'community right to bid' process – used by groups to safeguard land, pubs, sports centres, and other facilities for the community.

It has also removed voluntary groups and constituted community groups from those which can nominate assets of value because they do not qualify under the legislation. The community right to bid process has seen 106 nominations made since it was introduced in Shropshire in 2012. So far 74 have been successful.

If property is designated as a community asset then it cannot be sold without giving the nominating group six weeks to decide if it wishes to try and buy the site. If the group does it then has six months to bid for the asset – although the owner has no obligation to sell to the group.

A report from Tim Smith, head of business enterprise and commercial services, made two recommendations that were approved by the authority's cabinet. It stated: "Remove 'constituted community / voluntary group from the list of organisations that can nominate – this type is not a qualifying organisation under the legislation. This type of body could come under the 'unincorporated' body provided it meets the requirements of this definition. Request more detailed information from the nominator, parish council and community enablement officer to enable more effective and efficient consideration of whether the asset should be listed as an asset of community value."

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New deal to improve broadband in county

MORE than £11m is to be spent improving rural broadband, it has been revealed.

Connecting Shropshire has announced that Airband Community Internet Ltd will be the delivery partner for the next phase of Shropshire Council's superfast broadband programme.

The company will be responsible for delivering superfast broadband to more than 14,000 homes and businesses in the county over the next three years.

Nic Laurens, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for broadband, said: "I am delighted that we have secured a technology partner that can deliver superfast broadband to some of the most rural parts of the county."

"When this contract is completed, we expect 98 per cent of premises in the council area to have access to superfast broadband."

"This means that even more people living, working and visiting Shropshire will be able to benefit from access to faster internet connection speeds, enhancing their quality of life. The Connecting Shropshire programme runs until 2020 and will continue to work towards providing superfast broadband to all premises without access to it, and we remain confident in being able to achieve this aspiration."

Graham Wynn, chairman of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "Slow internet speeds are a significant barrier to business growth, which is why we secured just over £5m in our Growth Deal with the Government to help us address the issue working with our partner, Shropshire Council."

Crimes by under 10s continuing to go up

Report by Jonny Drury

THE number of crimes committed by children under 10 has risen over the past four years in Shropshire and Mid Wales with children as young as three committing offences.

New figures have revealed crime figures for children have continued to increase in recent years on both sides of the border, with nearly 200 crimes committed in 2016 in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

In the Dyfed-Powys Police force area almost 200 crimes were committed by youngsters in 2016/17. In 2013/14 just 30 crimes were recorded, and that figure rose to 88 in 2014/15, and up to 145 in 2015/16. In 2016/17 alone 10 incidents of sexual activity with a child under 13 were recorded, and 13 of exposure and voyeurism. Over the four years, four rapes of a female under 13 were recorded and four of a male under 13.

Also the youngest child to commit a crime in 2013/14 was four years old and last year was just three years old. In Shropshire, the number of suspects were above 100 for the last year, and the number of crimes last year had risen to 91, compared to 21 back in 2013. In total, 196 crimes have been committed by children under 10 in Shropshire since 2013. Detective Chief Inspector Mo Lansdale believes people being more confident in reporting crime is one factor behind the increased figures. He said: "The increase in crimes committed by children aged 10 and under can be attributed to changes in the way crimes are recorded, as well as continuing confidence in people reporting crimes to police."

From hedge to home in a few hours!



The feral kitten has been affectionately nicknamed Hedge

A FERAL kitten has found a new home after being rescued from a hedge at the recent Royal Welsh Show.

The six-week old male kitten was affectionately nicknamed Hedge after being found in a bush at a car park near to the Royal Welsh Showground.

RSPCA Cymru officers Phil Lewis and Warwick Burgess rescued the kitten, which was given a clean bill of health by a local Builth Wells veterinary practice.

The animal charity was able to find a suitable new home immediately and the kitten was taken home by Royal Welsh Show car park officer, Ben Gray, from Penarth.

RSPCA inspector Phil Lewis said: "I've worked at the Royal Welsh Show for many years - but have never seen anything like this before. It was remarkable."

"The six-week-old kitten was rescued from a hedge, so we quickly had a perfect name for this lucky young cat."

"He was given a once-over by a Builth Wells veterinary practice and we were delighted that car park supervisor Ben was happy to take this kitten home."

"He's gone from alone in a hedge, to a loving new home in Penarth in only a few hours."

NEWS IN BRIEF

New chairwoman at safety scheme

POWYS Strategic Community Safety Partnership Group has named a new chairwoman.

Dyfed-Powys Police Chief Inspector Rhiannon Ivens was appointed at a meeting of the partnership recently.

She said: "I will support the partnership in continuing this good work, particularly in relation to community cohesion and to ensure that we are doing all we can to achieve excellent outcomes for residents and visitors to Powys."

The Crime and Disorder Act 1988 makes it a statutory duty for each local authority area to have a Community Safety Partnership.

The partnership sees the police, health, local authority, fire services and probation service work together to prevent crime.

Rotarians told of Blood Bikes group

OSWESTRY Rotary Club was recently treated to a talk about Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes given by Sandy Harper, one of the founder members of this charity.

Becoming operational in 2014, with an initial 40 members using two second-hand motor bikes, SSC Blood Bikes now has 229 members including 169 riders using 12 Home Office approved Yamaha bikes specially commissioned with their own special livery with two blood or milk transit boxes.

Through its dedicated team of controllers, riders and fundraisers, the service delivers not only blood, but also urgently needed medical items such as frozen breast milk for premature babies and microbiological samples every day of the year.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

New drive backs more code clubs

A DRIVE to connect Welsh pupils with coding, backed with £1.3 million of new funding, has been announced by the Education Secretary Kirsty Williams.

Computer code is a set of rules or instructions that makes it possible to create computer software, apps and websites.

The Welsh Government aims to expand Code Clubs in every part of Wales. Approximately 300 clubs currently exist across the country and the Education Secretary wants all pupils to have the opportunity to learn about and get involved in coding as the importance of digital skills continues to grow.

Chance to brush up on road skills

MATURE drivers in Powys are being given the opportunity to brush up on their road knowledge thanks to informal workshops organised by the county council.

Powys County Council's Road Safety Unit will be holding its Driver Theory Refresher workshop on Tuesday, September 12 in Welshpool.

Aimed at drivers in the county aged 65 years and over, the two-hour and classroom-based informal workshop will provide attendees a refresh of the Highway Code and driver licence requirements.

It will also cover topics including night-time driving, medicine and alcohol laws and personal safety behind the wheel.

Attendees will also be provided with details of a practical one-hour driving assessment if wanted.

Performing arts grants up to £5,000 available

Report by Andrew Morris

THEATRE and performing arts groups in Mid Wales are being encouraged to apply for funds to support their activities for young people.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available from Powys County Council's Arts Service to support local youth theatre and performing arts groups in providing creative opportunities for young people to experience theatre making in both Welsh and English.

Councillor Rachel Powell, cabinet member for culture, said: "The Powys Youth Theatre Development Scheme is designed to encourage and support high-quality performing arts activities involving young people of all abilities in all aspects of live theatre production. Funding is available to support organisations in providing professional standard youth theatre opportunities for young people throughout the county. We know there are many arts organisations who deliver inspiring, accessible, inclusive and high quality activities and we want to help support them with additional resources."

Grants ranging from £250 to £5,000 are available until August 25. Anyone interested in applying for funding or finding out more about the scheme should contact Powys County Council's Arts & Culture commissioning officer at The Gwalia, Llan-drindod Wells, or call (01597) 827550.

Officer commended for her work



DC Gemma Rees is congratulated on winning her award

A LOCAL police officer, who won a national award for her role in the fight against counterfeiters in Powys, has been congratulated at a full council meeting of Powys County Council.

DC Gemma Rees, from Dyfed Powys Police, received the Special Commendation Award for Excellence in Anti-Counterfeiting Enforcement from the Anti-Counterfeiting Group.

DC Rees attended a full council meeting where she was congratulated by councillors. The council's Trading Standards Service had nominated DC Rees for the award for her outstanding contribution to the fight against intellectual property crime in the county and her commitment being 'above and beyond' her demanding duties as an officer in a busy police force.

Cllr Jonathan Wilkinson, cabinet member for trading standards, said: "DC Rees is a pivotal link to working with other agencies. Her professional work around this has made trading standards work more targeted, effective and incisive in supporting our Trading Standards Service."

Attempts to attract big sports events welcomed

ATTEMPTS to attract world-renowned cycle races to Wales have been welcomed by Powys County Council.

The Welsh Government is hoping to attract other major sporting events to Wales, including one of the Grand Tour professional cycle races - Tour de France, Giro d'Italia and Vuelta a España.

Wales has had huge success in hosting major events including golf's Ryder Cup, the Rugby World Cup, Ashes cricket Tests and a 2012 Olympics opening event while Cardiff was in the global spotlight recently when it hosted the 2017 Champions League Final. The efforts by the Welsh Government to bring one of the Grand Tour races to Wales is being supported by the council with its Leader, Councillor Rosemarie Harris, expressing her desire for any race to come through Powys if it is hosted in the country.

"The Welsh Government has had great success in attracting some of the world's biggest sporting events to Wales in recent years. It is only right that they continue to attract major sporting events to the country," said Cllr Harris. "Grand Tour cycling events would be a massive coup for the country so I welcome the Welsh Government's attempts to bring one of these prestigious races to Wales."

"Powys would be an ideal county for any Grand Tour to come through with our outstanding scenery and challenging landscapes. Our county is earning itself a fantastic reputation for hosting and staging major events."

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Millions spent on ambulances

MORE than £8 million has been spent on private ambulances in Shropshire, it has been revealed.

Figures from a Freedom of Information request to Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group has revealed that £3,146,427 was spent on the ambulances in the last financial year alone.

Information, provided by the CCG, which looks after health services across Shropshire, reveals it has an ongoing contract with private ambulance provider Medical Services Limited.

The multi-million pound contract with MSL is for non-emergency patient transport.

Bosses at the CCG says it does not use private ambulance companies for any blue light calls.

Clean bill of health for care provision

PATIENTS are receiving effective and compassionate care from the NHS in Powys, according to inspectors.

The Health Inspectorate Wales' report of Powys Teaching Health Board has found the majority of care is delivered by committed and kind staff.

The inspection from April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, saw one hospital inspection, four GPs inspected, two dental practices, one learning disability inspection and one ionising radiation inspection.

The overall view from the report was that care provided by PTHB is being delivered by committed and enthusiastic staff in a manner which is kind and dignified.

During the inspection, HIW visited the diagnostic imaging departments at three of Powys's community hospitals including the Victoria War Memorial Hospital in Welshpool.

Soldiers' letters could 'boost museum's future'

Report by Sue Austin

A FORMER director of Oswestry Town Museum says he hopes the discovery of letters between two soldiers written in the Second World War will help to secure the museum's future.

David Adams said he is delighted that the letters, bought for the museum by another director, Mark Hignett, have won international interest.

There are hopes that the interest will lead to the book and film rights being bought so that the story of Gordon Bowsher and his lover, Gilbert Bradley, can be told even more widely.

Gunner Bradley was stationed at Park Hall Camp near Oswestry when the letters were written.

Mr Adams, now involved in trying to set up a museum at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, said he was one of the first people to suggest that the two lovers could both be men.

"There were certain sentences that made me wonder if these were letters not between a man and a woman," he said.

"I am delighted that the letters are getting so much interest.

"I hope that they can go on to be turned into a book or a film and that this can help to secure the long term future of the Oswestry Town Museum."

The story of the secret gay relationship revealed in the collection of wartime love letters has already featured as part of a national LGBT history event in Shrewsbury.

Mark Hignett delivered a talk on the revealing collection at the "Back in Time 2" event earlier this year.

Ex-businessman is show president



Phil Ellis, pictured with his wife, Jane, has attend the show since he was a child

A retired businessman who has spent his who living and working in Llanfyllin has been appointed the president of this year's town show.

Retired builder and funeral director Phil Ellis, who lives in Rhos-y-Brithdir near the town, is well known in the area and has attended the show since he was a child.

After being made president for the year he and his wife Jane are looking forward to their big day at the show next Saturday.

He said: "To be invited to become show president is a terrific honour and privilege.

"I think it's a marvellous, friendly show which attracts people from a very wide area.

"Although I have never competed at the show, I have been attending since I was a child.

"It brings people of the countryside and the town together and is a great place to meet up with old friends."

Being a show president runs in the Ellis family as his brother, Brian, who still runs the family farm in Llanfechain is a former president of his village show.

Phil spent virtually all his working life in Llanfyllin, training as a carpenter and joiner with Jack Jackson, builder and undertaker, from the age of 15.

Police launch new safety drive for the summer

DYFED-POWYS Police has launched a campaign to help people who live in and visit Mid Wales to safely enjoy what the areas have to offer over the summer.

The campaign, entitled #EnjoyDPP, offers practical advice to help people enjoy the towns, beaches, mountains and events in the four counties the force covers.

#EnjoyDPP is about giving people the safety advice that could prevent them from requiring police assistance over summer.

With the large influx of visitors to the area, the roads get busier as well and officers are reminding drivers and riders to take care when they are on the road and to drive safely and not put themselves or other road users in danger.

Police use a combination of education and enforcement to try and get road users to understand the impact of their actions.

Throughout the year there are numerous road traffic campaigns which will focus on the causation factors of road traffic collisions.

The campaigns follow the fatal five messages.

These include whist driving "under the influence" of drink or drugs you could kill or seriously injure yourself or others; kill your speed and slow down.

You're twice as likely to kill someone you hit at 35mph than you are at 30mph; a vehicle can become a lethal weapon when driven carelessly; belt up, you're twice as likely to die if you don't; switch off your mobile phone before you drive off and do not use it when driving; these are in addition to routine patrols and ad hoc operations that take place.

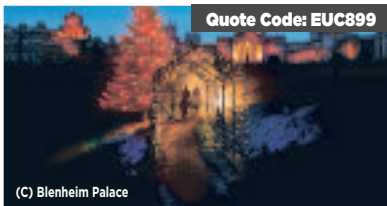
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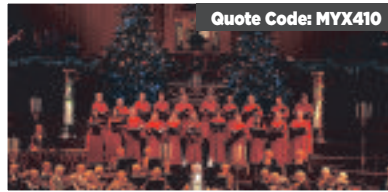
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Oswestry based chartered architectural practice, Design and Planning Associates Ltd (Dpa Ltd) owned and managed by directors Gareth Edwards and Gavin Porritt have now relocated to new premises on Salop Road.

The directors are delighted with their new offices which were extensively renovated during the last quarter of 2016, to cater for their expanding company which is enjoying continued growth. 'Salop House is in an ideal business location for us, providing sufficient office and parking space and retaining our established presence in the town centre.'

"It's very exciting times for us, owning these premises whilst continuing to develop our business into the future"

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Gareth and Gavin would like to say a special Thank You for the continued support of their staff and all the contractors who assisted them with the renovation works to Salop House.



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Hundreds attend living history event at castle



Tony Radcliffe, Ed Wilson and Al Wilson from 22nd Regiment of Foot - 18th Century American Revolution



Ollie Gardner and Paul Evanson from Whitchurch Volunteers - First World War



Michele Smith - dressed as a 19th Century Indian

Back in time for history

Report by Amy Downward

HUNDREDS of visitors were transported back in time at a living history event.

Whittington Castle, near Oswestry, turned back the clock for its living history event which saw re-enactors arrive in period clothing and uniforms and organising activities for all the family.

The castle hosted groups of re-enactors for a full two days of battle drills and living history. It was a chance for visitors to travel through history with groups from the Middle Ages right through to the Second World War. Castle manager Sue Ellis said: "The whole weekend has been brilliant. We have had people come from all over the country to take part. This is our largest event of the year. We had groups from across the continents and this year we have gone futuristic as well because a storm trooper has attended."

"There have been groups from the Tudor era, Elizabethan dancers, 18th century red coats, American Civil War, Spanish Civil War and from both world wars. This event is multi-period and is getting bigger and better each year with different groups coming along."

She said they were expecting about 500 people over the weekend and it had been so busy on the first day the car park was full.

"Also each group has been asked to provide a guard for the castle gates and that changes each hour. All the funds raised will go towards the restoration and upkeep of the castle. This is our 10th anniversary year so things are getting a bit tired now and need replacing."

Visitors were able to see a variety of activities in the main arena. Each living history camp was also demonstrating different ways of life from their chosen period.

Spinning

Sarah Thursfield, trustee of Whittington Castle, was at the event dressed in traditional Tudor clothing.

She said: "We are her to show textiles, sewing, spinning and food from the 1550s. It is great to see so many different groups from different periods in history coming together for free for the public to come and see."

"It is such a great setting and we have all enjoyed being here this weekend."

Among the groups were the 19th Indiana Regiment of the American Civil War Society, which showed off some of the weapons used by soldiers in the civil war.

Michelle Smith, part of the 19th Indiana Regiment of the American Civil War Society, had a display of medicines on show for people to see.

She said: "It is such a great event and an amazing setting. It is a great venue. We go to events all over the country and this one is a particular highlight. It is nice to see groups from all different periods. Being involved in re-enactment makes you value what you have now. It is also great for all the family - we take things seriously but have fun as well."

"In our group we have Freya who is five and has been involved since she was born, she has great fun being outside and getting involved in all the activities. There really is something for everyone - we are like a big family."

And Louise Goddard, from near Oswestry, was at the event dressed in clothing from the Norman period.

She said: "It is a fabulous setting here. I am here doing some tablet weaving today for people to see. We are camping here all weekend and it is a great event to be involved in. We have really enjoyed it."



Lew Goch, Lady Joanne D'Rhodes and Lord Gerard D'Rhodes - Late 14th Century Freeman of Gwent.



Sword skills from this re-enactor



Storm trooper Gary and Darth Noah - both from Oswestry



German paratroopers Dean Bagley and Brett Bagley from Brosely



Normans and Welsh at this battle scene

Bin wagons renamed to honour Woody

A lasting tribute has been paid to a popular binman who died earlier this year.

Staff at the Veolia recycling centre in Oswestry have named two bin wagons after Mark Woodliffe – who was more commonly known by his nickname, Woody.

The tribute reads ‘Woody, I like the way you move’, in reference to Mr Woodliffe’s love of dancing.

Cat Slaytor, from Veolia, said: “Woody’s colleagues really miss him – they worked with him for over 20 years.

“They have a photo of him in the crew room and felt that they would like to have this tribute to him on the trucks he worked on in the town centre.”

Mr Woodliffe, of from Hawthorne Grove, Oswestry, died unexpectedly in January just days before his 39th birthday.

He had worked as a bin man in the town since he was 18 years old.

Hospital staff travel with Scouts

Hospital staff who spend their free time volunteering with the Scouts are off for a break from their duties to embark on an action-packed trip.

The staff, who all work in different departments of the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, will be in charge of more than 20 youngsters between the ages of eight and 18 years old during a nine-day trip to Switzerland.

As part of the trip, the Scouts and RJAH team will take part in a host of team building activities including climbing, tobogganing and hiking up mountains.

They were due to set off for Kandersteg International Scout Centre last Friday and will return on Sunday.

Members of the RJAH team include Dawn Pugh, Simon Vernon, Michael Hodge and Jane Herbert.

Between them the team have racked up more than 75 years’ voluntary experience with the Scouts.

Sister Herbert said: “We’re all extremely excited, it’s going to be great fun, not just for the youngsters but also for us adults. The part I’m looking most forward to is the tobogganing.”



Volunteers, from left, Simon Vernon, Dawn Pugh, Jane Herbert and Emma Brown are helping the Scouts in Switzerland

Campaign over Angel to continue

By Aimee Jones

THE man behind plans to install Shropshire’s Knife Angel sculpture in Trafalgar Square says he will not back down, despite being told it doesn’t meet the criteria.

The Mayor of London’s Office has revealed the 26ft sculpture made of knives will not feature on the iconic plinth despite calls from more than 35,000 people.

British Ironwork Centre boss Clive Knowles said he is “ashamed and embarrassed” that Sadiq Khan will not make an exception for the monument.

The Mayor’s office said the fourth plinth is reserved for contemporary works of art that have been specially commissioned and selected by the Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group on behalf of the Mayor of London.

Exception

But Mr Knowles said he would continue with a petition to get the sculpture, created in Oswestry, displayed in Trafalgar Square.

The petition, which the Mayor’s office is aware of, has already been signed more than 35,000 times and Mr Knowles believes it will have 50,000 supporters by the end of the year.

“We will not stop our efforts until we have seen new laws and initiatives to tackle knife crime,” he added.

“Without any question they should make an exception for the Knife Angel.

“It is absolutely absurd to say these are the rules we follow when there is a national problem with knife crime. The Knife Angel is a national monument against knife crime and aggression. It will inspire people.”

Last week it was revealed Nottinghamshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner, Paddy Tipping, is set to make



More than 35,000 have signed petition to see the sculpture installed in London

a bid to bring the sculpture to his city.

Earlier this year the project which saw 100,000 knives taken off the streets of Britain was named joint winner of an international peace prize.

The Knife Angel was jointly awarded the Rotary International Peace Award alongside Médecins Sans Frontières which works to alleviate suffering and protect life in war zones and recently helping refugees crossing the Mediterranean.

“For some reason they don’t want

to see the Knife Angel in Trafalgar Square,” he said.

“They say the fourth plinth is already booked up. Next year it will be an elephant, which has nothing to do with UK issues. The government is complicit in allowing knife crime to rage on. How many more people have to die or get fatally wounded before they actually do something? The sooner we get this petition to the House of Commons, the better. We will hit 50,000 by the end of the year.”

Funfair cancelled after losing site

A traditional funfair will not return to a town this year as organisers have been unable to find a suitable site.

The Graham Stokes Funfair usually takes place every September on a field in Chirk owned by Kronospan but it hasn’t been held since 2015.

In a post on Facebook, Mr Stokes told residents that Kronospan has refused him permission to use the land and approaches to Chirk Town Council to use the recreation ground have been

futile. The woodchip factory says the site is leased out and the leaseholder made the decision to stop renting out the field when the fair attracted negative attention two years ago.

Candida Pryce-Jones, of Kronospan, said: “Following complaints by Lodgevale residents to the police regarding anti-social behaviour, the leaseholder of the land used by the travelling fair and other entertainment decided that he would not allow such events to continue, as he is perfectly entitled to do

under the terms of his lease.”

Mr Stokes thanked the people of Chirk for supporting the fair over the last 30 years but announced he would not be returning.

Clerk of Chirk Town Council, Shaun Jones, said: “Mr Stokes approached the town council on two occasions looking for alternative sites and he suggested it would be good if he could use the recreation ground. Unfortunately strings attached to the land means the likes of a fun fair is just not allowed.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pick up bargains at chapel book fair

A regular book fair of second-hand reads takes place next Saturday.

A range of books will be on sale at Hermon Chapel, in Oswestry, from 10am to 5pm.

There will be a bar and an opportunity to buy vinyl records on the day.

Entry is free and there will be live music from 1pm onwards.

A successful book fair was also held on August 5.

Thief is fined for stealing whisky

A man stole two bottles of whisky and a bag of dog food from a supermarket worth £52.50, a court has heard.

Michael Anthony Evans, 34, of Treowen, Newtown, appeared before Welshpool Magistrates Court where he admitted a theft charge. Magistrates fined him £80 and ordered him to pay compensation of £40, a £30 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

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Dairy boss in warning over butter threat

BRITISH dinner tables could be facing a butter shortage come Christmas time, the boss of one of the UK's biggest dairy companies has said.

British dairy farmers suffered a painful drop in the price they are being paid for produce last year, and that has led to a steep decline in the volume of production.

That is leading to prices of products made with milk and cream – such as butter and cheese – facing price increases in the next few months, or even shortages on the shelves according to Peter Tuborh, the chief executive of farmer-owned Arla.

He said his group was now working to get as much butter and cream as possible from producers in order to meet demand for products.

"We have had globally suppressed milk prices for farmers which has led to a very natural reaction that farmers have put a brake on production," said Mr Tuborh, whose company has a cheese packaging operation in Oswestry, and farmer suppliers across the county. What you have now is a lack of milk and raw materials out of farms and into dairies, and that is something that consumers will feel in the months to come.

"I know already that at Christmas time there will be a shortage of butter and cream in various countries, and that's what is driving up prices at the moment." Arla is a large Denmark-based milk co-operative, owned by dairy farmers including in Shropshire, and is the largest UK milk buyer. It has annual revenues of 9.6bn euros (£8.4bn). Despite the suggestion of imminent price rises for consumers, the NFU warned that the lower production volumes were not doing enough to force up prices at the farm gate, however.

Guidance delay now hitting housebuilding

Report by Sue Austin

A DELAY in updating national planning guidance is making it more difficult for developers to build houses in Shropshire.

That's the view of a planning specialist at Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors, which has offices in Oswestry, who attended a 'think tank' meeting about the direction that planning is taking in the UK at a meeting in London at the House of Commons recently.

David Brammer, head of planning at Lanyon Bowdler, was at the House of Commons for the event, which was organised by a non profit organisation Planning Futures and attended by over 100 organisations within the UK's housing and planning sector, as well as Members of Parliament and representatives from national and local government.

David said: "It was a well-attended briefing with lots to be discussed, because the majority of the people in the room were worried about the lack of clarity coming from the Government at the moment."

"We all appreciate that there has been a general election and the Government has lots on its plate, but the planning and housing issues will not go away. There is still a desperate need for new homes in Shropshire, as we hear on a daily basis that demand is far outstripping the supply of housing stock."

David said planners and developers were keen for the Government to make the necessary planning reforms as soon as possible.

Michelle's career comes full circle



Michelle Davies of Gobowen has seen her career come full circle

HER first job out of college aged 17 was in an independent, family run car dealership where she sold her first car.

The career of Michelle Davies, of Gobowen, has gone full circle on her joining award-winning Vauxhall dealer Arthurs of Oswestry.

She is working with the service team as customer relations specialist.

She explained: "My role mainly involves me contacting our customers to ensure their MOT and servicing work is carried out on time and at our customers' convenience."

"At Arthurs, providing excellent customer service is all-important and it is a key part of my job to make sure our customers feel valued and receive the best possible customer care."

"They are a family business which puts customers' interests first."

Michelle added that she had worked in customer facing sales and marketing roles for 30 years.

David Goldthorpe, Arthurs Vauxhall general manager, said: "Michelle's role is a courtesy service to ensure vehicles are well maintained at all times, whether it is an MOT or service schedule."

And Mr Goldthorpe added: "It is also a big part of her job to make sure our service department's customers are satisfied and well looked after, that their perception of the dealership is as high as it can be."

Late issue of payments is highlighted

FARMING families with land either side of the England/Wales border have too often been left behind when it comes to receiving farm payments, with many facing extreme financial pressures and being placed at a competitive disadvantage as a result.

That was a key message given to Assembly Members and senior officials from Rural Payment Wales and England's Rural Payment Agency during a cross party cross border group meeting hosted by Russell George AM and sponsored by the Farmers' Union of Wales.

The group's chairman, Montgomeryshire AM, Russell George, said: "As an Assembly Member for a constituency which borders England, I have regularly been contacted by cross-border farmers whose payments have been delayed by months, often leading to financial hardship."

"I know that my colleagues up and down the border come across the same problems, and the same is true for our English counterparts, so the opportunity for the group to speak to stakeholders and senior officials from England and Wales regarding the problem was invaluable."

FUW Montgomeryshire county executive officer Emyr Davies welcomed the decision by the cross party cross border group to look into the issue.

House prices stalling

HOUSE price growth in Shropshire has ground to a halt, latest official figures have revealed.

The average price of a property sold in Shropshire Council's area between April and May was £202,588 – a fall of 0.48 per cent on the previous month.

It reversed the 0.18 per cent rise seen in the month before.

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Chloe Williams, from Welshpool, with a Texel sheep



A kunekune pig on show



The show jumping competition

Huge crowds enjoy



Guy Mumford, from Yarchester Ford, Much Wenlock, with Highland cow Urshula



Ruth Corbett with Lily the Charolais and judge after winning the 'any other beef breed' section



Tia Hawthorn, 6, Demmi and Meara Coleman, 6 and 3, Trey Hawthorn, 4, and Lucy Hawthorn



Crowds at this year's Oswestry Show

A FEW showers didn't dampen spirits at Oswestry's annual agricultural show.

Thousands headed to the Oswestry Show from across Shropshire and Mid Wales.

And a spot of rain didn't put anyone off, as the showground still saw huge crowds of people there to see the attractions, as well as people bringing their animals for competitions on Saturday.

Report by Sophie Madden

Among those who came to the show was Guy Mumford, from Much Wenlock, who had brought some of his Highland cows.

They had picked up a first place, second place, two third place rosettes and a fourth. He said he has had the cows for about three years and has been coming to the show since they joined his farm.

Posing with Urshula the first of Yarchester, he said this was the latest in a line of

agricultural shows he would be taking the animals to. He said: "This is dry compared to Burwarton Show last week. We've got Oswestry and then we'll be at Minsterley in two weeks. This is a good show, everyone is nice and friendly, it is a good family show."

Beef

Showing in the pen was Ruth Corby, with her cow Lily, which picked up best any other beef breed.

Ruth, who had brought her animals from

the farm at Felindre, in Powys, was joined by her two sisters who had also picked up best reserve male and best reserve female in the same class.

The 25-year-old works as a physiotherapist at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital and said that, for her, despite coming from Powys, Oswestry felt like a home show.

She had previously been showing at the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells and in Aberystwyth and her brother was also showing some of their limousin cows at Brecon on the

same day as Oswestry. She said: "We come every year. Lily loves showing, you want them to stand tall and put their ears back and she loves doing it."

Meredydd Jones, who was judging the class, said: "We've had some fantastic animals, we didn't expect such high quality."

Chloe Williams, 15, from Welshpool was helping show Texel sheep. She said: "It is my second time at the show, I think it is brilliant."

Paul and Mary Woodhall, from Welshpool,



Members of the Porthywaen Silver Band performing



Phil Davies from Welshpool with his 1963 Austin Mini

farm-tastic fun day



Philip Dequincey from Westbury shows off his Fordson Major 1947



A cattle competition entrant



Wakey wakey! Chase the tawny owl looks a little sleepy with Sam Roberts, 9, and Joe Roberts, 10

were showing their Dalesbred and Wensleydale Sheep and won champion hill and health, champion Wensleydale, and champion male hill and heath. Mr Woodhall said: "We've done well. Oswestry is a really nice show, it is well organised."

Along with farm animals, there was a stall of rarer Kunekune pigs, by the British Kunekune Society. As well as displays, there were plenty of attractions. Watching the show jumping was Lucy Hawthorn, from Llanymynech, pictured top right with children

(from left) Tia Hawthorn, Demmi Coleman and Meara Coleman, all aged six, and Trey Hawthorn, four.

Watching the show jumping was Lucy Hawthorn from Llanymynech, with children Tia and Trey Hawthorne, both aged six, and Trey Hawthorne, six, and six-year-old Denny Coleman and three-year-old Meara Coleman. Tia and Trey had both taken part in gymnastic displays at the show, where Tia had performed to a song from Harry Potter.

Lucy said: "The children love it, especially

because they were taking part in the gymnastics today, they really enjoyed it."

Looking at the birds from North Wales Owl Rescue were 10-year-old Joe Roberts and his brother Sam, 9.

Plenty

The pair were holding Chase the Tawny owl. The siblings from Sale near Manchester were at the show with their grandparents Mark and Patricia Caton from Whittington.

Patricia said: "We've been about three

times, the boys enjoy it, there are plenty of things for them to look at."

Also enjoying the show was Ceri and Simon Borthwick, from Pant, who had brought their two children, Emily, 6, and Oliver, 9. Simon said: "We come to see the vintage cars and tractors and the rides for the kids. Also Ceri's cousins are showing ponies."

Among those showing vintage vehicles was Philip De Quincey, from Westbury, who had brought his Fordson Major 1947 from his home in Westbury. He said: "We do lots of

shows, the furthest we have done is Cardigan."

Phil Davies from Welshpool had also brought his 1963 Austin Mini. A member of Mid Wales Classic Vehicle Club, he bought the car in 2016, stripped it down and rebuilt it completely, finishing the work in March of this year.

Organisers said they were delighted. Mandy Roberts, show manager, said: "It has been very positive and we've had lots of people."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital's staff back safety drive

RADIOGRAPHERS at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital took part in MRI Safety Week – an event launched in memory of one of the world's most infamous hospital tragedies.

Six-year-old Michael Colombini was killed in a hospital in America in 2001 when a portable steel oxygen cylinder was taken into an MRI room while he was undergoing a scan. The cylinder was pulled with deadly force by the magnetic field of the MRI machine, striking the young boy on the head.

The week around that shocking incident has been remembered across the world ever since then, to promote and celebrate excellence in MRI safety.

While the orthopaedic hospital has an excellent safety record, staff are still keen to promote the importance of vigilance. Staff said MRI Safety Week helped focus minds on safety.

Anglers land cash for hospice funds

A GROUP of anglers spent a whole 24 hours fishing in a bid to reel in plenty of cash for charity.

Almost 20 people signed up for the Telford Anglers competition, and organiser Chris Lowe said they had raised more than £600 for Hope House Children's Hospice at Morda near Oswestry.

He said: "A friend of mine lost his son and they spent a lot of time at Hope House."

"We do these charity matches each year, and this year I decided that the money should go to them."

"Hope House do fantastic work, and they're not just there for the children, they're there for the entire family."

Students show off their top cooking skills at graduation

NORTH Shropshire College recently held a graduation event showcasing the talent of the Level 3 professional cookery students.

The evening took place in the Scholars Restaurant which is a commercial restaurant based at the college in Oswestry, that is open to the public during term times.

The students decided they would like to use this opportunity to fundraise for Hope House Children's Hospice which is based at Morda near Oswestry and is a charity that the college supports on a regular basis.

The graduation event was organised by Dan Thompson and Phil Bell who are both hospitality and catering lecturers and part of the commercial services department at the college.

All of the dishes available were developed and cooked by the students as part of a menu for their end of term assessment.

The menu consisted of two and three-course options.

Particular favourites proved to be the steak for the main course and dark chocolate mousse with hazelnut biscuit and raspberry compote for dessert.

The evening was designed to celebrate the students' success throughout their year at the college, as well as enabling them to display the wide range of culinary skills, knowledge and techniques they have learnt.

Mr Thompson said: "The evening was a huge success."

"The students worked really hard



Dan Thompson, chef lecturer at North Shropshire College, with students who took part in the event

and were delighted to raise £50 on the evening for Hope House.

"We would also like to thank Lynsey Kilvert, area fundraiser for Hope House for promoting the evening via social media."

"We wish all of our students the best luck for the future."

To find out more about Scholars Restaurant, people can visit the website via www.scholarsoswestry.co.uk or email scholars@wnsc.ac.uk. For

more information on hospitality and catering courses at North Shropshire College and to find out about other full and part time courses, visit the website at www.nsc.ac.uk or call the admissions team on (01691) 688080.

Schools to get more protection

SCHOOLS in rural Wales are set to get more protection from closure under new rules published by the education secretary.

They will be officially designated and listed to give them added protection with closure being a last resort.

The Welsh Government's education secretary Kirsty Williams said it should only be considered once alternatives and impact on communities have been explored.

Brecon and Radnorshire Assembly Member Ms Williams said rural schools were "at the heart of community life" and should get "a fair hearing".

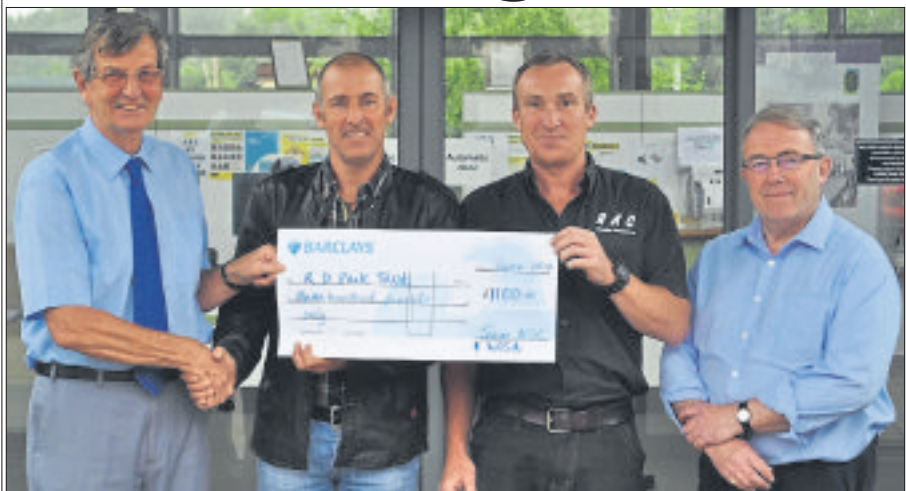
Powys County Council has already closed several small schools including Nantmel, Beguildy and Whitton in recent years to tackle surplus places and small pupil numbers, and others such as Dolau and Llanbister were saved after months of the threat of closure.

But the minister, inviting consultation on changes to the School Organisation Code, said alternatives to closure should be considered, such as federation with other schools.

Authorities will have to assess the likely impact of a school's closure on children's education, the wider community, and travel arrangements, and explain why closure is the "most appropriate" course of action. To increase community involvement in decisions, consultations should be published on a school day while any new alternatives to closure arising during the process should be given consideration.

Ms Williams believes "talking and engaging with the local community is vital".

Reunion ball gives a funding boost



Bruce Udale, Stuart Edwards, Rob Cooke and David Nightingale with the cheque for £1,100

THE Walford Old Students Association recently held its summer reunion ball at the Walford Campus of North Shropshire College.

The reunion was organised by the events committee which included previous chair's Rob Cooke and Stuart Edwards, well known Walford lecturer David Nightingale, Sarah Bayliss previous committee secretary and also representatives from the college.

By Iain St John

The reunion event included a two course dinner, raffle, promise auction, live band The Vertigo and a DJ who played into the early hours.

Lucy Evans, marketing manager, said: "The event was a huge success. The raffle and auction contributed greatly towards the final amount raised for the RD Park Trust, a registered college charity that raises money to support students with course-related trips and visits."

"It was great to see old students and lecturers from the college come together to raise money for such a fantastic cause. The committee members want to thank everyone who came to the reunion and contributed to the success and planning of the event. The final cheque has been presented by the committee members to Bruce Udale, RD Park trustee. The members are delighted to announce that the amount raised from the event was £1,100."

Stuart Edwards, Rob Cooke and David Nightingale presented the cheque to Mr Udale.

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Country cottage in idyllic setting is beautifully presented

A beautifully presented three-bedroomed detached country cottage in an idyllic setting, Garreg Lwyd at Moelfre near Llanilin has been sympathetically renovated.

Being tastefully decorated and having stunning views towards the Berwyn Mountains and Moelfre Lake, it is for sale through Town & Country at £380,000.

The property is warmed by oil central heating and has double glazing. The gardens are lawned and shrubbed to the front and rear, with a barbeque and seating area ideal for entertaining.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a living room, a conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, three bedrooms, one en-suite and a bathroom.

In more detail the entrance hall has an original tiled fireplace, steps up to bedroom two, steps down to bedroom three and doors to bedroom one and the living room. The living room has a beamed ceiling and patio doors to the conservatory and a stone inglenook.

The kitchen/breakfast room is beautifully appointed with Shaker style units and French doors to the rear garden, spotlighting, with exposed stonework.

Bedroom one has a quarry tiled sill and views over open countryside and a built in cupboard. Bedroom two has an en-suite shower room with a built-in wardrobe. Bedroom three has a beamed ceiling and a range of built-in cupboards.

The family bathroom has a three piece suite.

Outside, a gravelled frontage enables parking for three cars. There is an under house log storage. There are blackcurrant, damson, greengage, gooseberry and rhubarb in the back garden. A small herb garden, screened vegetable plot, lawned area and a large range of shrubs and flowers.

There is also a large summer house/garden storage with loft space, a small workshop and lean to garden tool storage area.

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Call for national housing fund for 40,000 homes

A new national housing fund should be created to invest in building 40,000 extra homes per year, a report has urged.

The ResPublica think-tank said that such a fund could use £100 billion of repayable investment to transform Britain's housing situation over a decade.

If the Government launched that type of fund with leading housing associations it could deliver at least 40,000 new homes annually, boost public finances by £3.4 billion, and create 180,000 new jobs in the construction sector, the report said.

Under the proposal, housing associations and the Government would each hold a 50 per cent stake in the fund, with the associations managing the properties, and ministers providing money via government bonds.

Rental income would then cover the cost of the Government's interest payments, ResPublica said.

The move could ease rent rises as one in seven households spend 50 per cent of their income on housing, according to the study.

Director of ResPublica, Phillip Blond, said: "Successive Governments have failed to build enough homes, or enable enough homes to be built, and the election demonstrated that voters will punish parties at the ballot box if their housing offer is not credible.

"We must make radical changes if we are going to address a problem which is dividing our society between those who can afford to enter the property market and those who are priced out - the haves and have nots.

"Our national housing fund offers the Government a way to finally build the homes it acknowledges it needs. Through the notion of a guaranteed buyer we reinvent the only formula that has ever enabled the state to build at scale."

Lenders see dip in remortgage loans

Remortgage lending to homeowners has been on a downward path since the start of the year, according to banks and building societies.

Some 32,500 remortgage loans were handed out to homeowners in May, down 2 per cent month-on-month. The figure has edged down every month after 39,400 loans were handed out in January. The figures were released by new trade body UK Finance.

Mark Harris, chief executive of mortgage broker SPF Private Clients, said that while there could be an upward pressure on mortgage rates, there was no need for borrowers to panic.

He said: "Swap rates have been creeping up and that will affect the pricing of fixed-rate mortgages. The markets are factoring in a rise in base rate later this year. However, we don't expect a rise to be anything more than a return to 0.5 per cent, a rewinding of the cut last August, and medium to long-term rates are going nowhere.

"There are great opportunities out there for borrowers but there is no need to panic. They will be around for a good while yet."

Figures show first-time buyers 'older and live in rented homes'

The number of first-time buyers in England has not changed in the last 10 years, but numbers are down on 20 years ago, according to the latest research.

The survey, published by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) reveals that today's first time buyers are older, more likely to live in a rented home before buying and need more help saving for a deposit.

In 2015/2016 there were 654,000 first-time buyer households in England, amounting to around 4 per cent of all households and 5 per cent of all owner occupier households, the first-time buyer survey shows.

The overall number of first-time buyers decreased from 922,000 households in 1995/1996 to 675,000 households in 2005/2006, and has remained at around that level since.

The research also shows that compared with a decade ago, today's first-time buyers are older, more likely to buy with a partner, and to have dependent children.

In 2015/2016, the average age of first-time buyers was 32, up from 31 in 2005/2006. Some 21 per cent of first time buyers were aged between 35 and 44 years in 2015/2016, up from 16 per cent in 2005/2006.

Some 74 per cent of first-time buyers were couple households, a marked change since a decade before when it was 66 per cent. The report suggests that this may be due to an increasing need for two incomes to be able to buy.

Over the same period, the proportion of first time buyer households with dependent children increased from 23 per cent to 37 per cent and the report points out that first-time buyers are increasingly likely to live in privately rented accommodation before



they buy. Indeed, the proportion of first time buyers who lived in the private rented sector before buying their first home has increased from 39% in 1995/1996, to 49 per cent in 2005/2006 and to 66 per cent in 2015/2016.

By contrast, over the same period, the proportion of first time buyers from the social rented sector decreased from 12 per cent in 1995/1996 to 7 per cent in 2005/2006, to 4 per cent in 2015/2016.

The survey also confirms that first-time buyers have higher incomes and more help with funding their deposits than they had 20 years ago. The median income of first time buyers has increased more than the

median income of other recent buyers in the last 20 years.

Some 66 per cent of first-time buyers were in the two highest income bands in 2015/2016.

The proportion of first time buyers in the highest income quintile has increased from 24 per cent in 1995/1996 to 33 per cent in 2015/2016.

Between 1995/1996 and 2015/2016, there was an increase in the proportion of first-time buyers that had help from friends and family for their deposit from 22 per cent to 29 per cent.

Two thirds of first time buyers pay a

deposit for their first home of up to 20 per cent.

But the average deposit is nearly £50,000 and higher in London. About two thirds of first-time buyers, 64 per cent, pay a deposit up to 20 per cent of the purchase price.

In 2015/2016, the mean deposit for all recent first time buyers was £48,831 and the median deposit was £22,000. Mean deposits were higher in London at £94,088 than elsewhere where it was £40,931.

The most common source of deposit reported was savings, which has increased in importance between 2005/2006 and 2015/2016 from 66% to 81%.

House prices up but market slowdown continues

House prices in the UK were up 2.4 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2017, confirming a slowdown from the first quarter figure of 3.6 per cent the latest analysis of index data shows.

And the slowdown was even more marked in London with growth of just 0.8 per cent in the second quarter compared to 13.7 per cent at the same time in 2016 while Scotland recorded the sharpest regional decline in property prices, down 4.2 per cent year-on-year.

The Halifax house price index, administered by IHS Markit, shows a sustained slowdown in UK property price inflation from the peak seen in early 2016 with the annual the slowest since the start of 2013.

In London house price momentum remains among the weakest recorded for five years while the East Midlands was the strongest performing English region, up 9.7 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2017, followed by East Anglia up 8.2 per cent.

The standardised UK house price was £222,911, a rise of £5,320 over the past 12 months and it is up £64,552 from its post-crisis low in the first quarter of 2009.

On a longer term horizon, the latest figure is up £22,288 or 11.1 per cent since the second quarter of 2007.

The second quarter data marks almost a decade



since the previous peak in UK house prices during the summer of 2007, when the standard price reached £200,623.

Regional house price trends have diverged considerably in the past 10 years, the index report also shows.

"A loss of price momentum in London continues to weigh on headline measures of UK house price inflation.

"There are now signs that weakness in the capital has started to extend to commuter areas beyond the M25, with property prices across the wider South East

increasing at the slowest annual price since the end of 2012," said Tim Moore, Senior Economist at IHS Markit. "London's soft patch has clearly magnified the slowdown in UK house price inflation since 2016, but this weaker trend is not exclusive to the capital.

"A generally cooling UK housing market appears to have emerged so far in 2017, driven by affordability constraints, pressures on household finances, greater caution among buyers and the fiscal squeeze on buy to let," he pointed out.

"As we move through the summer of 2017, it marks exactly a decade since the standard UK house hit its pre-financial crisis peak, briefly rising above £200,000.

"Against the high watermark seen in the summer of 2007, sizeable parts of the UK have experienced a lost decade for house price gains.

"This includes lower standardised property prices in Northern Ireland, Scotland, the North of England and Wales compared with 10 years' ago," he explained.

"Despite signs of weakness in 2017, by far the greatest rises in standard house prices since the onset of the global financial crisis have been in London, up 43 per cent.

"In cash terms, the gap between standard house prices in London compared to the UK as a whole has almost doubled in 10 years to £230,000 compared to £119,000 in 2007," he added.

Recently completed four bedroomed barn conversion offers 'wow' factor

KYNASTON
£575,000

>>>

Packed with the "wow factor", Treginford Barn in the hamlet of Kynaston near Kinnerley is a recently completed four bedroom barn conversion within equidistance of some 10 miles to Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

It is for sale through Balfours at £575,000. Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours said: "This is an exceptionally well designed conversion. While it dates back to the mid-1800s, its recently completed conversion provides a magic mix of character and contemporary. That is maximised through original oak timbers quite literally highlighted through the magnificent expanses of glazing."

The wow factor is made the most of on the first floor with a magnificent gallery landing open to the glazed frontage.

To view this property please contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Home occupies a quiet elevated position in village

TREFONEN
£425,000

A spacious detached house with stunning views, Kappara, Spring Bank, Trefonen overlooks the village towards the Shropshire Plain.

The home is within a short distance of the village amenities. The property has a reception hall, three reception rooms, a study, a kitchen, a utility, a cloakroom, five bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a large garden plot, double garage and solar panels. The property is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with offers in the region of £425,000.

The home occupies a quiet elevated position in Trefonen having good local facilities including a public house, church, shop, sought after primary school and is convenient for the border market town of Oswestry (three miles) with its excellent traditional shopping facilities and access roads to Wrexham, Chester and Shrewsbury.

The property is an executive detached dwelling traditionally constructed of brick under a tiled roof. The



accommodation is set over four floors with four half staircases and has the benefit of oil fired central heating and double glazing.

The property is approached over a tarmac drive providing ample car parking and turning area leading to a detached double garage (19'10" x 21'6") with two up and over front doors and top floor store room/play room. There is an attractive front veranda and patio with large front lawn garden. To the rear is a large patio area and lawn garden with hedged boundaries.

There is an external workshop and boiler room. The solar panels generate an income of approximately £1,500 per annum.

For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Superb cottage with balcony is in location on edge of forest

LLANGADFAN
£169,950

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Bliss Cottage, 4 Hendre, Llangadfan, is a delightfully charming two-bedroomed semi-detached cottage in a beautiful location on the edge of Dyfnant Forest.

Having a balcony, separate lounge and dining room, kitchen and wet room, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £169,950.

A number of external items may be available by separate negotiation including a wood fired hot tub, an attractive insulated "Hobbit House" with wood stove, a large timber shed and a timber potting shed/greenhouse.

From the paved patio the gardens lead across the front of the house with a raised lawn in a sunny position with good views. A pathway then leads to large side gardens with woodland beyond.

There is a stream-fed pond and a second still pond.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.



Longest wait at county A&E is 'nearly 21 hours'

PATIENTS have endured waits of almost 21 hours at Shropshire's accident and emergency departments, new figures reveal.

Figures from NHS Digital data show that in April patients had to wait an average of two hours and 37 minutes, a total of 157 minutes, before being seen.

On average, patients across the UK will have to endure 144 minutes in A&E departments before being seen, the figures show.

The longest waits were recorded at Rotherham General Hospital where patients have to wait 271 minutes on average. By contrast, patients at Fryatt Hospital in Essex, which is only a minor injuries unit, are seen and discharged in just 30 minutes, the NHS Digital data shows.

It comes after the health service was deemed to have suffered its worst winter on record, having to issue guidelines to turn away many patients.

At the height of the busiest period this winter, the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) made repeated calls for people to stay away from the hospitals unless they had a genuine emergency.

The findings, based on 184 trusts across England, showed that 95 per cent of patients can expect to depart A&E within six hours 31 minutes of arrival.

However, nearly half of all trusts monitored reported their longest waiting time of more than 20 hours.

Six of those assessed saw at least one patient have to wait for 1,439 minutes before they were allowed to leave - just one minute shy of a full day.

In terms of just receiving treatment, 56 minutes was deemed the average wait. Some 95 per cent were seen within three-and-a-half hours, the statistics showed.

A&E departments are meant to see and either admit or discharge 95 per cent of patients in under four hours after guidelines were introduced in 2004.

But data of 1.4 million visits to hospitals across England in January showed only 82 per cent of patients were dealt with within the time frame.

Hopes new device being trialled in the county will save lives

SHROPSHIRE'S ambulance service is part of a trial which could save lives, reduce the time patients spend in hospital and save money.

The trial by West Midlands Ambulance Service and the University of Sheffield is looking at ways of treating patients who suffer from life threatening, acute respiratory failure.

The condition happens when heart or lung disease suddenly develops, or worsens, and means patients are unable to maintain oxygen levels in the blood.

Patients with certain conditions like COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and particularly serious cases of pneumonia are often victims of the condition, where they struggle to breathe.

Ambulance staff currently provide oxygen delivered at normal pressure through a loose-fitting mask.

But under the trial, ambulance crews will use a new device, which delivers oxygen under increased pressure through a close-fitting facemask, effectively forcing oxygen into the lungs.

This CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) device allows the oxygen to be taken into the blood stream and allows carbon dioxide to be released.

The trial, will also involve ambulance crews in Staffordshire and Birmingham. Staffordshire historically has higher rates of respiratory disease.

Andy Rosser, WMAS lead research paramedic, said: "We know that CPAP is used very effectively in hospitals. Small studies outside of the UK suggest that using CPAP in an ambulance may save more lives, particularly where the patient is in a more rural location and has further to travel to hospital."

Inspector's concern over NHS trust's healthcare

A WARNING notice has been given to the NHS trust which manages hospitals over the border from Shropshire in neighbouring Worcestershire.

England's Chief Inspector of Hospitals has demanded Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust make urgent improvements to the quality of healthcare following an inspection in April. The trust has been in special measures since December 2015.

The inspectors visited Worcestershire Royal Hospital, Alexandra Hospital in Redditch and Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre.

They looked at areas of previous concern including the minor injuries unit at Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre.

Professor Ted Baker, the chief inspector of hospitals, said: "Over the last two years Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust has been subject to rigorous and frequent regulatory action. I remain concerned that the trust has not taken sufficient action to address the requirements of our previous inspections, and patients using services continue to experience a poor level of care."

FOCUS: FUTURE OF THE NHS

Outcry over threatened cuts at PRH



Hundreds of people marched against cuts to services at the PRH

PEOPLE in Telford have been vocal against what they see as possible "cuts" to hospital services in their borough.

Telford & Wrekin Council has also threatened a judicial review against the Future Fit proposals.

Future Fit, run by its own board under the county's two clinical commissioning groups, is looking at the reorganisation of hospital services in Shropshire.

It has previously recommended one A&E unit set up at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and that Princess Royal Hospital Telford's department be downgraded.

After the recommendation was made, Telford & Wrekin Council threatened to lodge a legal challenge to halt the proceedings.

Following an independent review of the decision, pushed for by the council, which claimed there were

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issues with the way the preferred option was decided, the Future Fit board has decided that it is still the best way forward.

Since the release of the independent review Councillor Shaun Davies, the leader of Telford & Wrekin Council, has said that he believes the outcome is a foregone conclusion.

Funding

He said the planned consultation is nothing more than paying "lip service" to the process of talking to the public.

He said that issues raised in the review have not properly been looked at ahead of the consultation.

But Telford's MP, Lucy Allan, has said the delays mean that hos-

pitals risk losing funding for the changes.

Health bosses agree that the situation is not sustainable in its current form.

And if funding is lost, the transformation of hospital services will not go ahead, leaving the matter in a perilous position.

Ms Allan said delays in the Future Fit process mean the county is losing out on "significant funding" for its health services.

In an email to members of the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital's NHS Trust Board, she said that residents should have been given more certainty over the ongoing progress.

She, along with Wrekin MP Mark Pritchard, has accused people of using the hospitals debate as a "political football" and said that residents need clear guidance as to what changes will mean for them.

Vision set out

The Princess Royal, Telford

UNDER the preferred option proposed by Future Fit, Princess Royal Hospital would become the home of planned care.

It has now spelled out the services that would be provided at the Telford hospital should the proposals be given final approval after the consultation.

● 24-hour Accident and Urgent Care Centre (A&U) - six out of 10 people, including children, who arrive at the current A&E department would still be seen at the new A&U.

● A number of mothers and children would still access Women and Children's Services at the planned care site - it would also continue to provide the majority of local services like maternity services at a midwife led delivery unit, early pregnancy assessment services, antenatal care and outpatients and scanning; children's outpatients services and women's services like gynaecology outpatients appointments. More than 500 women a year would still be able to have a baby at the planned care site.

● Elective and day case surgery - the majority of adult planned inpatient surgery would take place at the site as well as most adult day surgery.

● Orthopaedics - the vast majority of planned orthopaedic appointments.

● Endoscopy - a purpose-built endoscopy facility for day case patients.

● Centres of Excellence - the trust aspires to create centres of excellence in bariatric services and breast services, which would be housed at PRH.

The number of weight loss surgeries performed in Shropshire could double, with 300 patients seen per year if the move goes ahead.

● Medical beds - they would be available for ongoing acute care and rehabilitation.

● Outpatients - appointments, including a fracture clinic, would still take place at PRH.

● Diagnostics - facilities, such as X-Ray, ultrasound, CT and MRI scanning would still take place.



An artist's impression of how the new main entrance at Princess Royal Hospital will look under the plans being proposed



These are the services that will be taken on at Telford under the proposals put forward by the Future Fit board

● Inpatients - approximately 350 inpatient and day case beds would be at the hospital, including beds for elective orthopaedics, breast service, frailty, and elderly care, rehabilitation and ongoing medical care.

● Day case renal unit - kidney dialysis

treatment would be available for patients at their local hospital.

● Cancer centre - Patients needing day case treatment such as chemotherapy would get this from their local hospital as a service would be provided at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the PRH

in Telford. PRH will also benefit from a new cancer unit for patients needing day case treatment such as chemotherapy. The new cancer unit, which will save patients in Telford having to travel to Shrewsbury, will be delivered whatever the outcome of the Future Fit process.

Spotlight on future of women's and children's services

ASIDE from the future of emergency care, a main bone of contention over the future of hospital services has been women's and children's services.

Just three years ago a £28 million Women and Children's Centre was opened at Telford's Princess Royal Hospital.

It was to be the home of consultant-led care for maternity services and neonatal care, inpatient gynaecology services, inpatient care and treatment for children, as well as specialist oncology and haematology services for children.

Future Fit has since announced that

those specialist services may have to move to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, should the main emergency department be there, as they would need to be on the same site.

This has caused much upset in Telford among people who say they feel it is a waste of the specially-built centre.

Today, it has been clarified how women and children's services would work. They would continue to be provided at both sites.

An acute women's and children's inpatient facility would be based at the emergency hospital site to ensure mothers and babies do not have to leave the country for

acute care. At that site, currently proposed as the RSH, there would be inpatient facilities for women, including obstetrics, neonatal services, early pregnancy assessment, antenatal care, outpatients and scanning as well as the consultant-led maternity services. The midwife-led maternity unit would also remain.

There would also be a women's and children's centre on the planned care site, proposed to be the PRH.

This would provide maternity outpatients, scanning and a day assessment unit. It would also see neonatal outpatients, out-

reach care, children's outpatients and children's outreach care and teams.

There would also be state-of-the-art midwife-led birthing units, including delivery suit and ward, midwife support services and community midwife teams.

Finally, the planned care site would offer an early pregnancy assessment service and gynaecology outpatients.

The hospitals are also looking to prove care closure to home at the antenatal state, where community hubs will be provided closer to home, bringing services together around the needs of women and families.

FOCUS: FUTURE OF THE NHS

MPs back preferred A&E recommendation



'Risk' – Daniel Kawczynski

MPS representing both Shrewsbury and Mid Wales have supported the preferred option for the county's hospitals.

They have said that action needs to be taken quickly, and delays to the Future Fit process need to stop. Shrewsbury and Atcham MP Daniel Kawczynski spoke in Parliament to ask whether more could be done to remove the stumbling blocks that have caused the decision to be pushed back.

The Conservative MP has always maintained that Royal Shrewsbury Hospital must retain its A&E, and since the announcement of the Future Fit board's preferred option he has called on officials to follow the advice of experts.

He has now called for "mature decisions" over the proposal.

Mr Kawczynski said: "We have to start recognising these changes for

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what they are, the opportunity for a £300 million investment into our region's health services.

"Failure to put our house in order would put that at risk.

"Therefore, mature decisions are needed so that we can find the best route to better health provision for all."

Mr Kawczynski has also called for clinicians working in the hospitals to be given the final say over what happens to hospital services.

He said: "These professionals have come up with very bold innovative and medically-driven proposals designed to safeguard and protect patient safety and to improve the care of patients not just today but for future generations."

He has called for public consultation to begin as soon as possible, to

allow the project to move forward as soon as possible.

And his sentiments have been echoed by the leader of Shropshire Council Peter Nutting, who said he didn't believe many people have altered their thinking over the months of the independent review.

Glyn Davies, MP for Montgomeryshire, whose constituents rely on Shropshire for hospital treatment, said he had hoped health chiefs would take a decision to go out to public consultation over future hospital care when they met on Monday.

But that will only happen, potentially between the end of September and middle of October, once the move has been given the go ahead by NHS England.

Mr Davies said the position was becoming desperate because local politics had taken precedence over providing care.



'Desperate' – Glyn Davies

for hospitals

The Royal Shrewsbury

ROYAL Shrewsbury Hospital should house the county's sole emergency centre, the Future Fit Programme Board agreed ahead of an independent review that finished last week.

The hospital is already home to the county's trauma centre and as such sees most blue light cases being transported there.

As a date is to be set for consultation, the services that would be provided at the hospital – should it be passed – have been outlined.

- Emergency department – the new 24-hour single emergency centre would be provided to treat the most serious emergency cases.

The department would be 50 per cent larger than the current smaller A&Es, helping to attract more consultants to the hospital and ensure a sustainable workforce for the future.

- Critical care unit – a state-of-the-art 30-bedded intensive therapy unit and high dependency unit would be provided alongside the emergency centre.

- 24-hour accident and urgent care centres – six out of 10 people, including children, who arrive at the current A&E departments would continue to be seen at an A&U.

- Specialist wards – these would cover cardiology, including a coronary care unit, endoscopy, gastroenterology, nephrology, neurology, stroke, respiratory and acute medicine for patients needing acute inpatient care.

- Trauma – trauma, including orthopaedics and unplanned and complex surgery.

- Acute maternity services – inpatient facilities for women, including obstetrics, neonatal services, early pregnancy assessment services, antenatal care, outpatient and scanning, as well as a consultant-led maternity service.

- Children's services – inpatient and outpatient facilities for children, including



This artist's impression show how a new emergency unit at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital could look as plans go ahead



These are the types of emergencies that would be dealt with at Shrewsbury under the proposals that have been outlined

a children's assessment unit oncology and haematology.

- Outpatients – outpatients appointments, including a fracture clinic, would still take place meaning patients would have their appointments at their local hospital.

- Diagnostics – facilities, such as X-ray, ultrasound, CT and MRI scanning would still take place.

- Inpatients – the hospital would have approximately 510 inpatient beds and a dedicated ambulatory care unit to accommodate 49 patients.

- Day Case Renal Unit – kidney dialysis available for patients at their local hospital.

- Cancer centre – patients needing day case treatment such as chemotherapy would get this from their local hospital as a service would be provided at both the RSH and the PRH in Telford.

Leaving health provision unchanged 'not an option'

HEALTH bosses have agreed that leaving hospital services as they are is "not an option". They said changes need to be made to protect health services for the future.

Currently planned care like operations, procedures and appointments that are scheduled in advance and unplanned care, like emergencies and urgent health problems, are provided across both sites.

Pressures from the unplanned services have an impact daily upon the pre-arranged treatment of patients.

For example, a hip replacement may be cancelled because the bed that is needed is

being used for a patient who has pneumonia and has been admitted via A&E.

A lot of the time, this means patients are being cared for on the "wrong" ward for their needs and that planned care is frequently cancelled.

From November 2016 to October 2016, the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital, had to cancel 514 surgical procedures due to the unavailability of beds.

It says getting the right beds in the right place for people who need them is crucial.

Clinicians working at SaTH have also said that having emergency services in one place would benefit patients, help to attract more staff and help to ensure services are not lost from the county.

It was revealed recently that only one accident and emergency consultant has been recruited at Telford and Shrewsbury hospitals during the past three years despite extensive recruitment drives.

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine guidelines says that a minimum of 10 consultants should be working every day in each of Shropshire's two emergency depart-

ments. But health bosses say Shrewsbury and Telford's A&Es are currently operating with far fewer.

Doctors say having one emergency centre would allow the trust to ensure there is always one of their own senior doctors present 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to deliver care compared to the current situation where locum doctors are more frequently delivering the care.

It is claimed that this model would also help to keep services in the area rather than see them moved to the bigger centres in Stoke or Wolverhampton.

'Too much blood' may be collected through transfusions

BLOOD donation services in Shropshire will be reviewed – because transfusion staff may be "collecting too much".

NHS Blood and Transplant said it would be looking at the service covering the county and said it wanted to ensure it is not overstocking with supplies.

It said that donor sessions will still be held in Shropshire, whatever the outcome of the review, but was unable to explain in detail what implications it would have on donors.

Donors will be contacted in the coming days with the full details of the review.

NHS Blood and Transplant collects blood on a regional and a national basis and the service plans the sessions to collect the right amount of blood that patients need.

It manages blood and platelet donation, and organ, stem cell and tissue donation and transplantation.

Service leaders said that any changes will not affect the ability to supply blood to local hospitals.

They said that there was a national trend seeing decline in blood use is a global trend due to improvements in clinical practice and improved surgical procedures, such as keyhole surgery.

The service still needs to collect around 6,000 donations a day to meet the needs of hospital patients and will still need nearly 200,000 new donors a year, but doesn't want to waste precious resources by collecting more blood than is needed.

Pam Pye, a spokeswoman for NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "We are planning to review our blood donation programme in Shropshire.

"We greatly value the generosity and commitment shown by our local donors and we will let them know more details very soon.

"The amount of blood hospitals use is declining. It is important that we do not waste precious donations by collecting too much blood.

"Blood donation saves lives and we would love to see our donors continuing to donate at all our available local sessions."

Trust defends child health visitor change amid heavy criticism

CAMPAIGNERS have raised concerns over the future of the county's health visitors.

Shropshire Defend Our NHS said it believed a new contract between Shropshire Council and the county's community health trust could see up to 22 jobs cut by October.

Currently there are about 50 health visitors providing a service to parents and young children in Shropshire.

But Shropshire Community Health Trust has dismissed the suggestions insisting it does not expect any job losses, although it has admitted some health visitors will be asked to "work differently" under the contract.

Gill George of Shropshire Defend Our NHS said any cuts to the service would put children at risk, adding: "Here's a brilliant service, all about keeping young children healthy and safe, protecting children from serious disease, picking up on issues with health and development early to get the right support in place – and it's a service now being wiped out by cuts."

But trust spokesman Andy Rogers said: "We have been successfully chosen to provide the new Healthy Child Programme 0 to 19 service for Shropshire. This is a new, and evidence-based, model of care that will involve some innovative changes to the way our health visiting and school nursing services work together to provide quality, safe care to children and young people.

"At this stage we are working with our staff to develop this new model of care. While we do not expect there to be any job losses, some of our staff will be asked to work differently and we will support them through this process."

Liz Grayston, an Oswestry maternity campaigner and mother of four, said the service would be "crucified" if jobs are lost.

Closures hit half of UK maternity units

NEW research published today by the Labour Party shows that nearly half of England's maternity units closed to new mothers at some point in 2016.

Data obtained by Labour under the Freedom of Information Act shows that since 2014, two hospital trusts in the West Midlands region (George Eliot Hospital Trust and The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust) temporarily closed maternity wards to new admissions.

Over 40 hospital trusts which responded to the FOI request say they temporarily closed maternity wards to new admissions at some point in 2016.

Some closures lasted more than 24 hours, while over ten trusts shut temporarily on more than ten separate occasions each.

In 2016 there were 382 occasions when units had to close their doors, a 70 per cent increase from 2014.

Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Health, said: "These findings show the devastating impact which Tory underfunding is having for mothers and children across the country."

Opening up gates to the delights of allotments

ALLOTMENTS have long been the must-haves of the eco-conscious, health-aware generation keen to get back to nature and grow their own food.

To mark National Allotments Week (August 14 to 20), allotment groups across the UK will be opening their gates and holding barbecues, plant and produce sales, allotment tours, competitions and exhibitions, coffee mornings and afternoon teas – many of them raising funds to support local charities.

WHY ARE ALLOTMENTS SO POPULAR?
“There’s a lot of interest in food, and a growing awareness of children not knowing where their food comes from other than the supermarket, so I think families see getting an allotment as a way of remedying that. It’s also a fantastic way of getting outside and doing something together,” explains Di Appleyard of the National Allotment Society (www.nsalg.org.uk).



Councils are still increasing their allotment provision – but how easy is it to secure a plot?

WHERE YOU LIVE MATTERS

“Waiting lists vary a great deal across the UK or even across a city, and whether you are prepared to travel or clear an overgrown plot,” Di says.

“Put your name on the waiting list at your local council. There are massive waiting lists in some areas, but in others you only wait a few months. The site I’m on in Bristol is very popular and has a four-year waiting list, but if you are prepared to travel a mile down the road, you could get there tomorrow.”

Alternatively, people can look for a private site on the internet – but they are harder to find. If a site you are aware of is not on the council list, go to the site itself and speak to the people there, who are often there at weekends. Find out owner and website details.

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU’RE TAKING ON
“It’s rare that you’ll get a choice of plots as you will be offered the next plot that comes free, but it’s important to think about how much spare time you have and your level of skill. For example, a novice gardener working full time may well struggle with a full-size plot (250 square metres),” she says. “That’s a lot of space for somebody working full time.”

Sometimes you may have a choice, especially if a plot-holder who has neglected the plot has been asked to leave. But this will mean you’re stuck with an allotment which will need a lot of TLC. Most councils offer half plots.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE
The only obligation the council has is to supply a piece of land. However, most provide water from a dipping trough rather than a standpipe. Sheds are mainly down to the individual and some sites don’t allow sheds. Many plot-holders use half-size plastic sheds to house their tools. More sites, particularly those managed by an association which can fund-raise, are getting toilets.

WHAT MY ALLOTMENT MEANS TO ME

Journalist Ella Walker, 29, from London, and her boyfriend Sam, took over part of Sam’s father’s allotment near their home, which hadn’t been used for about three years. Each plot has its own shed, taps and water butts and there are shared wheelbarrows.

“It was a mess. We had to dig it all up, which is still an ongoing process, but we inherited a couple of apple trees and three rhubarb plants,” she recalls.

“Before we got into gardening, we’d been growing chilli plants on our windowsill and filled our window boxes with herbs, but we wanted more space. There was no chance of us getting a garden, so an allotment seemed the next best thing.

“It’s just so lovely going there. You feel you’ve escaped from reality. A couple of hours disappear and your brain just empties.”

They are now growing blackberries, raspberries, rhubarb, kale, leeks and strawberries. Another allotment holder has given them two vines.

“Making time for it is the hardest thing,” she says. “I try to go once a week, but if I miss a week, it’s very demoralising because all the weeds have come up.

“It’s very sociable though – everyone chats. There’s a Portuguese collective and they’ve all got plots together and they’re always out cooking sardines. And because we were new and the youngest people on the plot, everyone always gives us tips, whether we want them or not!”

Use the garden to help sooth health issues

EVER thought how much a garden might be able to help a loved one suffering from mental health problems, whether it’s an elderly relative showing signs of dementia or a traumatised child?

Former city finance worker Faith Ramsay, new chairman of trustees at horticulture therapy charity Thrive (thrive.org.uk), left her lucrative job to re-train as a garden designer and in the process alleviated her own bouts of depression.

She says: “Thrive therapists use horticulture to achieve a therapeutic outcome. Different plants help alleviate different problems.”

Here, she offers tips on plants that can be included in a variety of therapeutic garden schemes:

LAVENDER

This is planted in some of Thrive’s children’s gardens. Faith says: “It’s calming, balances the senses and has a sedative quality which can aid sleep. Being surrounded by lavender and the natural smell of it is very good. It’s also robust and will keep coming back. It doesn’t need much care or watering.”

ROSEMARY

“Rosemary helps memory and is very good for dementia settings,” she says. “It’s a stimulating plant for dealing with people



Lavender has a calming effect and can aid sleep – and doesn’t need much care

who might be feeling low and need a bit of a boost. I wouldn’t have lavender and rosemary cheek by jowl. There needs to be space for calming and space for being uplifted.”

How to use it:
“I’d plant rosemary near a kitchen, or, if the person has a greenhouse, a washing line or a pond, where you expect them to be slightly more active, it can help them feel uplifted. As rosemary is evergreen and can get quite big, I’d put it with decent

low-maintenance ground cover like creeping phlox or campanula, or a hardy geranium.”

THYME

“This is particularly good for children with mental capacity issues because they can touch and grab and smell and interact with it in a positive way. If you are constantly being told not to touch or poke things, suddenly being able to do that is very positive and empowering.”

EARLY SPRING-FLOWERING BULBS

“For many people, mental health problems, [such as SAD], are worse in the winter. I would choose an early spring-flowering bulb for a sense of optimism, to give the message that life goes on and positive things are coming.

“Iris reticulata come out in February in lovely blues and purples, when the weather is grey and you are feeling rock-bottom. And they could be grown by someone who only has a balcony and they flower when nothing else is out.”

CHILDHOOD PLANTS

“If you are dealing with an elderly person, maybe someone who is starting to suffer from dementia, include plants which were around during their childhood, like old-fashioned pinks, which are very aromatic, or sweet peas, because those memories are lost last. They lose their newer memories quicker.

These aromatic, old-fashioned plants may strike a chord with people in their seventies and eighties, which echo something from their childhood.”

“Put sweet peas around a wigwam with pinks underneath it. As a form of horticultural therapy for dementia, Thrive would encourage the patient to plant sweet peas. They are easy seeds to handle.”

Good time for shrubs but beware lurking serpents

ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall



THERE is a congruity between many of the shrubs that flower early in summer and those that flower late.

Both need to flower on wood that has had time to ripen. In the case of deutzias and the like it has to have ripened over the previous year.

Buddleja flowers on wood produced in the current season which ripens over the summer. Hydrangeas need to be pruned correctly as they also flower on ripe wood.

If you have done this then they should be enlivening your garden right now.

Beyond pruning (more on this in winter) there is very little involved in growing what has to be the most amenable of garden shrubs.

Hydrangeas are an Asian genus with one exception. *H. macrophylla*, *H. paniculata* and *H. arborescens* are commonly brown in gardens. The former are usually divided into mop head and lace-caps.

They tolerate a wide range of soil and conditions and are a favourite plants by the coast and on exposed sites where they tolerate wind, salt and drought.

Brighten

The flowers on mop head and lace-cap types can change according to the Ph of the soil but there are colour fast ones.

The flowers on the latter two are white or sometimes pink tinged but otherwise don’t change.

There are a wealth of late flowering perennials that brighten up the garden. Agapanthus are probably my favourite.

The generally milder winters mean that it is possible to grow a greater selection including less hardy types.

A good tip when choosing is that the larger and wider the leaves the less hardy the plant is. For certainly you cannot beat the Headborne hybrids which grow and flower reliably with mid blue hanging trumpets.

Agapanthus make excellent container plants where they like to be really congested before you think of repotting.

When you do simple division is the best method which can be done in spring or autumn and the new pieces placed in really gritty compost.

This will prevent them from becoming waterlogged which is the main enemy when growing them as the fleshy roots will rot in wet soil.



Agapanthus are late flowering perennials that brighten up the garden – and make excellent container plants



Crinum powellii likes the protection of a sunny wall

Another summer bulb that likes similar treatment is *Crinum powellii* which however does like the shelter of a sunny wall.

The leaves are long and strap like and give a very exotic look which is continued when the large trumpets of flower in pink or white emerge. Alas there is no scent but you can’t have everything.

Recently a friend of mine asked me what the large white trumpet shaped white flowers were in her garden and should she keep them.

They had popped up all over the place when she or rather the hired help, had cleared and dug over the area.

Gardeners among you may guess my



Bindweed – the serpent lurking in paradise

reply. A firm NO issues from my mouth.

I went on to explain that the invader was bindweed, a pernicious perennial weed which would take over if not dealt with immediately.

A reminder if one were needed that serpents can lurk even in paradise.

Happy gardening!



**NAT, LOUIS & JAY
KEEP DANCING . . .**

INSIDE

YOUR WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



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It's Strictly business for dancer Natalie

After working so hard to establish herself on Strictly Come Dancing, leaving was the hardest thing. Natalie Lowe said a fond farewell earlier this year, following her partnership with Olympic long jump champion Greg Rutherford, after seven happy series.

She'd also featured on Dancing With The Stars, in her native Australia, and knew it was time to go.

The muscular blonde dancer says: "I spoke to a very good friend of mine about wanting to leave the show. I really felt like this was the year that I had to make the difficult decision of leaving."

"My friend asked me what I wanted to do and I told him there were lots of exciting things in the future that I wanted to tackle."

Decision made, she set about working out her future. She planned to put her feet up for a few months then focus on a show she was producing at the end of the year. Her friend wasn't so sure.

"He had an idea. He was producing a show that he wanted me to be involved in. I said absolutely not. I told him that I was 99.9 per cent sure it would be a no. But he was persuasive and said the show, Rip It Up, was based in the 1950s. He'd seen a version and wanted to include dance in it."

"At first, I was sure I wouldn't do it but by the end of the conversation I was sure I would. I love that era and that music. I am a massive Elvis Presley fan. My mum and dad used to talk about going to dance nights on a Friday nights and leaving their house open and their car door open. It was a different world. I thought this would be the only chance that I could relive the era that I'm so fond of."

Before she knew it, Natalie had signed on the dotted line and agreed to star alongside Strictly Come Dancing champions Louis Smith MBE and Jay McGuiness in Rip It Up.

Rip It Up promises to bring the fabulous soundtrack of the 1950's to life in an explosion of song and dance that will see Natalie, Jay and Louis swing, bop, jitterbug, lindy hop, jive and ballroom their way through the greatest songs from the greatest decade of music; from romantic ballads and crooner classics to many of the era's defining pop and rock'n'roll hits.

AMAZING

She was drawn to the production by the chance to work with Louis and Jay.

"Louis is already a good friend, after winning the show with Flavia. And Jay did that amazing dance with Aliona. So I thought the three of us would be an amazing combination."

"I love being on tour and the fact that we go to London Palladium is great. The whole show will be epic and amazing and full-on. There's lots of jives and full-on dances."

Natalie has spent much of her life on the road. She was with a touring show for five years, dancing around the world. "It never really ended. That was our job, day in and day out. We would do it for eight months of the year and I loved it. So if I can survive that, I can do anything."

"Taking two months out of my life to do something that I love with a passion is a privilege. I'm so excited to be dancing – I'm definitely not hanging the towel up."

Moving on so quickly and starring in theatres throughout autumn means she won't have time to miss Strictly. "It'll soften the blow. If I wasn't working, I'd be there in front of the TV with the Kleenex, weeping."

"But I think you can get too safe, too samey in your world. Something inside me wants to do more, and not just dance. I've been wanting to start up my own company for about 10 years. I've got other interests outside of dance. I'm not going to go and start playing baseball. But I want to develop new projects and be creative."

"I loved Strictly. It's the most amazing show in the

Keep dancing – Natalie stars with Louis Smith and Jay McGuiness



whole world. But now I need to start challenging myself as a choreographer, director, producer – I need to start bringing shows to life without necessarily being in them."

Natalie says the reaction from the public is one of the most exciting experiences of Strictly – though she seldom realised how popular the show was until the end of each series. While filming was taking place, she was too busy working to notice.

"You live, breathe, sleep and dance Strictly. You are up from August until the end of the year. In August, it's a whole month of professional routines to get the show looking as amazing as possible. Then we have three weeks with our celebrity after the launch. So we've done two-and-a-half months before it comes to life."

"Then we're dancing with our partners six to 10 hours a day. We'll come home, research music or have to do a solo performance. On average, I'd work a 14-16-hour day. I lived on four to six hours sleep per night during Strictly."

You have to and you need to if you want to do well. That's the sacrifice you have to make. You have to come up with ideas and storyboards. You have to think about lighting, costume, music and what feels right. Then you have to teach a celebrity. Then there's interviews. But the public – you don't realise how much they are loving you. It's just home, studio, BBC, studio, home."

"It's been the most amazing, educational journey of my whole, entire career. We start really good friends and always bump into each other."

She remains in touch with the guys she danced with and believes they're all incredible in different ways.

"But it's time to move on." It's time to Rip It Up.

● Natalie brings her new show to Birmingham Symphony Hall on September 19; Aston Hall in Wrexham on September 21; and Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury on September 22. Tickets still on sale

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Shropshire Star every Friday.

Locomotive will be star attraction at rally

The County of Salop Steam Engine Society's 2017 Rally, takes place at Onslow Park, Shrewsbury on the August Bank Holiday – Sunday, August 27 and Monday, August 28.

A new attraction will be a Hunslet 2-6-2T locomotive No. 85 courtesy of the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway.

It was built in 1954 for service in Sierra Leone and purchased from a scrap dealer by the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway in 1975.

Edward Goddard, society chairman, said: "We are delighted to have this great little engine, which as one of

1,000 exhibits, it promises to be of great interest to our visitors".

The locomotive, which last ran on the Mid Wales heritage railway in 2010, has spent six years on display at the Locomotion Museum in Shildon, an outpost of the National Railway Museum.

Since leaving there in April, it has visited the Armley Industrial Museum in Leeds, the city where it was built, then Hull, the 2017 City of Culture, the Museum of Water and Steam at Kew, and the 50th Anniversary Weekend of Tyseley Locomotive Works in Birmingham.

At Blists Hill Victorian Town, the locomotive has been placed beside the London and North Western Railway

goods shed. Displays created by the Friends of the Sierra Leone National Railway Museum accompany No. 85, telling the stories of slavery and freedom, colony and independence, and the special story of the Sierra Leone Railway.

The grand tour of UK heritage sites, funded by a £22,800 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, celebrates the many links between the UK and Sierra Leone. When restored the loco will be able to form the African Train, running with two Gloucester-built Sierra Leone Railways bogie carriages that the railway also purchased in 1975. After No. 85 has travelled to Shrewsbury it will return to the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway.



Coming soon...

Have a Rocking good time

Grammy and Emmy Award winning comedian, actor, director, writer and producer, Chris Rock, has announced UK dates to his hit comedy tour, The Total Blackout Tour. The Total Blackout Tour 2018 marks the comedian's first UK tour in 10 years, visiting the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on January 25. Lauded by peers and critics alike, Chris Rock is one of our generation's strongest comedic voices. As an actor, director, producer and writer he has created many pivotal pop culture moments. After gaining early success as a stand-up comedian, Rock joined the cast of NBC's Saturday Night Live in 1989. With a career spanning more than three decades, Chris Rock is a true icon whose star shines even brighter. Rock has won four Emmy Awards, three Grammy Awards and is a New York Times Best-Selling Author. In addition, he received two nominations for the 2016 Emmy Awards, for Outstanding Director for a Variety Special for "Amy Schumer: Live at the Apollo," and Outstanding Special Class Program for the 88th Annual Academy Awards. In 2009 Rock ventured into the documentary world as a writer and producer of "Good Hair," and in 2014 he executive produced "Eat Drink Laugh: The Story of the Comic Strip," a documentary recounting the history of one of New York's most famous comedy venues. Tickets for the Barclaycard Arena date are on general sale via www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.



Time for a waltz with superstar

Oswestry and Welshpool fans of international superstar André Rieu will be able to see their favourite performer later this year in Birmingham. André Rieu is quite simply a musical phenomenon like no other, having sold a massive 40 million CDs and DVDs and notched 30 No. 1 chart positions worldwide. Along with his 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra, the largest private orchestra in the world, André has created a global revival in waltz music, staging spectacular extravaganzas which are second to none. Having received over 500 Platinum Awards, three Classical Brit Awards for "Album of the Year" and billions of YouTube views, André is one of the biggest solo male touring artists in the world. Each year his passionate live shows attract more than 600,000 fans and outsell mega artists such as Coldplay, AC/DC and Bruce Springsteen. "My concerts are about joy and love!" says André Rieu. "We should make decisions in our lives with our hearts, not our heads. People often ask me 'how do you choose your program?' – the answer is: with my heart. I love Johann Strauss but I am also fascinated by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Bruce Springsteen. We should stop limiting ourselves with categories and boundaries – not just in terms of music but in our lives in general". On stage André's incredible musical prowess, passion and charisma make for a magical spectacle. André Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra will play at the Genting Arena in Birmingham on December 21.



Extraordinary year for James

Recent months have been extraordinary for singer/songwriter James Arthur. After returning with his single Say You Won't Let Go, James has gone on to achieve multiple number ones, a platinum selling album, sold out tours and also two BRIT nominations. And now he doing his first arena tour. The nine-date tour, with Ella Henderson in support, includes a show at Birmingham's Genting Arena. Tickets are on sale for the November 25 gig at www.theticketfactory.com. James wrapped up his last UK tour earlier this year and it sold out in minutes and earned him rave reviews from fans and critics alike. Excited to now hit arenas, James commented: "It is unreal that I'll be doing my first UK arena tour this November. The last tour was the best experience and now I cannot wait to take it to the next level in arenas. Thanks again for the continued support and can't wait to see you there". Billed as The Comeback of the Year by many, James's run of success shows no sign of slowing down through 2017.



Poet to be remembered in broadcast on radio

AN amateur radio enthusiast is looking for a field in Oswestry to broadcast a special Wilfred Owen event from.

John Wakefield, a retired police officer from Hampshire, is appealing to the public to find a piece of land where he could host the station to commemorate the life of the local war poet.

He hopes it would take place next year to highlight 100 years since Owen was killed in action during the First World War.

"Ideally the land would be an area of around 45 by 45 metres and without animals," he said.

"I own a van and carry all that I need in that with a small trailer so will be self-sufficient for the week. If anyone has even a corner of a field they are able to give me access to, I would very much like to hear from them."

Mr Wakefield has experience hosting special event radio stations.

He added: "In my experience, a lot of radio amateurs tune in because it is a special event but they end up interested in the subject. It is the ideal opportunity to talk to people who are not aware of Owen and what he did."

"My interest in Owen started when I went to college to take a night class in English literature and one of the poems we studied was by him. I did my homework and got more interested in his poetry – he became one of the best war poets that I liked." If you can help with the appeal, email john.telegraph@zen.co.uk. Owen is also set to be remembered in his home town of Oswestry with a life-size statue in Cae Glas Park. The idea was put forward by the Lights out Trefonen group.

Members of the Lights Out Trefonen committee are putting together a week-long festival of activities from November 4 to 11, 2018, to commemorate the centenary of the end of the war and Owen's death.

War poet and soldier
Wilfred Owen



* THE National Urdd Eisteddfod is coming to Powys in May 2018.

Guests including Powys County Council cabinet members, local urdd committee members, and eisteddfod organisers were present at a reception recently to celebrate its arrival.

The eisteddfod – taking place during Whitsun week – will be using the Royal Welsh showground in Llanfawr as its site next year.

Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, cabinet member and portfolio holder for education and Welsh language, said: "I am delighted that Powys will be hosting yet another major event in the Welsh calendar – the 2018 National Urdd Eisteddfod.

NOTICE BOARD

"The Urdd Eisteddfod is one of Europe's largest youth touring festivals that attracts around 90,000 visitors each year, and with over 15,000 children and young people competing.

"An event of this scale and popularity in Powys is very exciting and will boost the local economy, tourism, Welsh language development and much more.

"As portfolio holder for education, I want the best for our pupils and this includes providing plenty of opportunities to develop their skills – The Urdd Eisteddfod offers this in

abundance. Powys is no stranger to hosting large events so I have no doubt that we will do our county proud and help make this eisteddfod a great success."

* IT brought stars including Kim Wilde and ABC's Martin Fry to the Midlands. And now plans are afoot to hold another major music concert at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

Bosses are finalising plans for the redevelopment of the park, which will ensure it's ready to host the event. It comes in the wake of 2016's Let's Rock festival – an 80s music extravaganza that featured a host of famous names including Nick Heyward and Holly Johnson.

Now Sandwell Council's cabinet

member Richard Marshall has confirmed progress has been positive and the park will host the festival next summer.

Councillor Marshall said: "We are going to be turning Sandwell Valley into a big music venue. The plans are moving forward so that events can be held there next summer.

"We've got it all planned out and have easily got space for 60,000 people.

"At the moment we're just going through the surveys that we need to for traffic flow.

"We're pushing ahead with the plans so stuff will be held next year." Sandwell Valley is the perfect location to cater for gig-goers from both the north and south, according to Councillor Marshall.

August 12



Match of the Day
10.30pm
 Gary Lineker presents action from the opening round of Premier League fixtures, including Watford v Liverpool, Chelsea v Burnley and Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester City.

BBC1

6.00

Breakfast.
9.30 **World Athletics Championships 2017.** Gabby Logan presents coverage of the morning session on day nine at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, including the men's and women's 4x100m heats. Coverage continues on BBC2.

12.00

Football Focus. Dan Walker presents preview of the opening weekend of the Premier League season, including Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester City and Chelsea v Burnley.

1.00

BBC News; Weather.

1.15

Bargain Hunt. The competition heads to Peterborough, where Charlie Ross ignores his own advice and the red team fails to pay heed to Thomas Plant's words of wisdom. (R)

2.15

Homes Under the Hammer. Lucy Alexander explores a semi in Bexley, Dion Dublin visits a Nottingham terrace, and Martin Roberts meets a father and son planning to knock down a Cornwall property. (R)

3.15

Escape to the Country. Jules Hudson helps a couple with a £600,000 budget search for a country home in Dorset. Away from the hunt, the presenter discovers how to make a traditional shepherd's hut.

4.00

Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland.

5.20

BBC News.

5.30

Midlands Today; Weather.

5.40

Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present the general knowledge quiz with famous faces from BBC radio programme Test Match Special, including Phil Tufnell. (R)

6.30

World Athletics Championships 2017. Coverage of the ninth evening at The London Stadium, where Mo Farah and Usain Bolt are set to make their final track appearances in the 5,000m and 4x100m finals respectively.

10.10

BBC News; Weather; **National Lottery Update.**

10.30

Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents action from the opening round of Premier League fixtures, including Watford v Liverpool, Chelsea v Burnley and Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester City. Liverpool defeated the Hornets 1-0 in last season's corresponding fixture thanks to Emre Can's Match of the Day Goal of the Season-winner and will have expected another tough encounter. Meanwhile, Chelsea will have expected to get their title-defence off to a winning start and newly promoted Brighton faced a difficult task against Pep Guardiola's expensively assembled side.

12.00

FILM: Buried (2010). An American truck driver working in Iraq is kidnapped by guerrillas, who seal him in a wooden box and bury it in the desert. Discovering his cell phone has been left in the box with him, he uses this fragile link to the outside world to try to get help - but his supply of air is running low and even he does not know where he is. Thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds.

1.35

Weather for the Week Ahead.

1.40

BBC News.



The Sweet Makers: A Georgian Treat
5.40pm
 Four modern confectioners use original recipes, equipment and ingredients to recreate the extravagant displays of a Georgian confectionery shop.

BBC2

6.30

FILM: Escapade in Japan (1957). Children's adventure, starring Jon Provost.

8.00

FILM: Little Women (1949). Four sisters find maturity and romance during the American Civil War. Oscar-winning drama based on Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, starring June Allyson and Elizabeth Taylor.

10.00

Saturday Kitchen. Ray Mears samples dishes prepared by Paul Ainsworth and Tommy Banks.

11.30

Food & Drink. Sat Bains demonstrates his take on a traditional bread and butter pudding. (R)

12.00

World Athletics Championships 2017. Further coverage of the opening session on day nine.

12.30

Nigel and Adam's Farm Kitchen. Nigel Slater presents a few spicy chicken recipes. (R)

1.30

James Stewart: Talking Pictures. A profile of American actor James Stewart. (R)

2.20

FILM: The Philadelphia Story (1940). A socialite's marriage to a politician is disrupted by her ex-husband and a reporter looking for a story. Romantic comedy, starring Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart.

4.10

Only Connect. A team of reptile lovers take on three background actors. (R)

4.40

Gardeners' World. Monty Don gives advice this week on how to cut and maintain hedges. (R)

5.40

The Sweet Makers: A Georgian Treat. Four modern confectioners recreate the extravagant displays of a Georgian confectionery shop. (R)

6.40

Iolo's Great Welsh Parks. New series. Iolo Williams explores Great Orme Country Park in Llandudno, where he learns about the area's rare moths and butterflies, ferocious stoats and migrating birds.

7.10

Proms Extra. Katie Derham revisits the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain's performance of Thomas Ades' Polaris, and John Wilson's ensemble tackling Oklahoma!

7.50

Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring is determined that all his men should be well-shod and have battle-worthy feet, so he starts a regimen involving lengthy route marches. (R)

8.20

FILM: Alice in Wonderland (2010). A 19-year-old Alice returns to the magical world she visited as a child to find that a tyrannical queen has taken over. Fantasy adventure, starring Mia Wasikowska and Johnny Depp.

10.00

Performance Live - Flood: To the Sea. A live staging of To the Sea, the third instalment of James Phillips' four-part multimedia drama Flood, performed at Hull's Victoria Dock.

10.30

Golf: USPGA Championship. Eilidh Barbour presents live coverage of the closing stages of day three at the fourth and final Major of the year, held at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina. Live coverage begins on the interactive service at 7.00pm.

12.15

FILM: The Way (2010). A doctor decides to complete the historical journey through the Pyrenees that his son died while making. Comedy drama, starring Martin Sheen.

2.15

This Is BBC2.



Catchphrase
7.15pm
 Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

ITV

6.00

CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids
6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids
6.20 Sooty **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **7.00** Oddbods **7.05** Oddbods **7.15** Super 4 **7.25** Mr Bean: The Animated Series **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go

8.25

ITV News.

8.30

Weekend. With Andy Parsons, Alex Zane, Touker Suleyman and Carly Paoli.

9.25

The Home Game. A London couple get rid of walls to create an open-plan space. (R)

10.20

Gok's Lunchbox. An estate agent takes on two rival chefs in Gok Wan's cooking challenge. (R)

11.20

1000 Heartbeats. Quiz show, hosted by Vernon Kay. (R)

12.15

ITV News and Weather; Weather.

12.25

Catchphrase. Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)

1.10

Midsomer Murders. Barnaby and Jones discover a murdered council clerk was an expert blackmailer, and visit the home of his latest victims to work out who might have done the deed. (R)

3.10

FILM: Uncle Buck (1989). Family comedy, starring John Candy.

5.00

Little Big Shots USA. A junior jazz singer, a yodeller, and a young conductor all take to the stage.

6.00

ITV News Central; Weather.

6.05

ITV News and Weather.

6.15

You've Been Framed! Finest. Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a mustard-swallowing challenge that backfires and a teenager who finds a cockroach in his dinner. (R)

7.15

Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00

Joanna Lumley - Elvis and Me. The actress goes on a personal journey to discover more about Elvis, travelling to his birthplace and meeting Priscilla Presley to gain an insight into the man behind the myth. (R)

9.00

The Nation's Favourite Elvis Song. A countdown of the King's 20 greatest hits, as voted for by the public, featuring contributions by stars he influenced and an interview with his ex-wife Priscilla Presley. (R)

10.30

ITV News and Weather; Weather.

10.45

FILM: Tomorrow Never Dies (1997). James Bond battles to stop a media mogul's plan to start a war between Britain and China. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan, Jonathan Pryce, Teri Hatcher and Michelle Yeoh.

1.00

Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.

3.00

The Hungry Sailors. Dick and James Strawbridge visit Lostwithiel, Cornwall, where they set to sea with a fisherman and harvest mussels. They later use a hot stone cooker to sear beef for their guests. (R)

3.50

ITV Nightscreen.



Britain at Low Tide
7pm
 Tori Herridge and Alex Langlands investigate Merseyside's coastal archaeology, finding 7000-year-old remains and exploring a beach full of rubble from the Second World War.

Channel 4

6.10

Adventure and Trail Running: UK Challenge. Action from the physical and mental endurance test in Stirling.

6.40

Mobil 1 The Grid. "Flying Dutchman" Max Verstappen discusses switching from Kart racing to Formula 1.

7.05

British GT Championship. Highlights from the penultimate round of the series at Brands Hatch.

7.35

Everybody Loves Raymond. Marie and Frank go on a diet. (R)

8.00

Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)

8.25

Frasier. Martin beats Frasier at chess. (R)

9.00

Frasier. The Crane brothers clash. (R)

9.30

The Big Bang Theory. A revelation from Sheldon shocks Amy. (R)

10.00

The Big Bang Theory. (R)

10.25

The Big Bang Theory. (R)

10.50

The Simpsons. Bart looks after a bird's nest filled with eggs. (R)

11.25

The Simpsons. Homer becomes an inventor. (R)

11.55

Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Part two of two. Gordon Ramsay gives the owners of La Galleria 33 an ultimatum. (R)

12.50

Four in a Bed. The competition kicks off at No 33 in Hunstanton, Norfolk. (R)

1.20

Four in a Bed. The second visit is to La Talca Valda in Nuneaton. (R)

1.55

Four in a Bed. The third day of the competition takes place at The Lansdowne in the Cotswolds. (R)

2.25

Four in a Bed. The last visit is to the Ivybridge Hotel and Spa in Wales. (R)

3.00

Four in a Bed. The B&B owners meet for the last time. (R)

3.30

A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Jonnie Irwin tries to help a couple buy a house in south Orlando. (R)

4.35

Big House, Little House. Couples in west London and Manchester aim to revitalise their homes.

5.35

Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. A flat on the River Thames in central London. (R)

6.30

Channel 4 News.

7.00

Britain at Low Tide. Tori Herridge and Alex Langlands investigate Merseyside's coastal archaeology, finding 7000-year-old remains and exploring a beach full of rubble from the Second World War. (R)

8.00

Paul O'Grady's Hollywood. The presenter sets out to determine what makes a classic movie musical, from Disney hits such as Mary Poppins and Frozen, through to Flashdance and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. The concluding part can be seen on More4 tomorrow at 9pm.

9.00

FILM: Red 2 (2013). An ex-CIA agent reassembles his team of retired operatives to recover an advanced weapon that has gone missing. Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis and Helen Mirren.

11.15

FILM: Let's Be Cops (2014). Premiere. Two friends pose as police officers hoping to enjoy the perks of the job, but end up in over their heads with gangsters. Comedy, starring Jake Johnson and Damon Wayans Jr.

1.10

Eden: Paradise Lost. (R)

2.05

The Last Leg. (R)

3.00

Hollyoaks.

5.05

Sarah Beeny's Double Your House for Half the Money. (R)



Football on 5: The Championship
9pm
 Highlights from the latest games in the Championship, which included Sheffield Wednesday v Queens Park Rangers.

Channel 5

6.00

Milkshake!: Poppy Cat **6.10** Little Princess **6.25** The Mr Men Show **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About **6.45** Simon **6.50** Peppa Pig **6.55** Wissper **7.05** Paw Patrol **7.15** Bob the Builder **7.30** Fireman Sam **7.40** Olly the Little White Van **7.45** Olly the Little White Van **7.50** Paw Patrol **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective **8.55** Floogals **9.10** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **9.25** Shimmer and Shine **9.40** Digby Dragon **9.55** Peppa Pig **10.05** Peppa Pig **10.10** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom

10.30

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)

10.50

Budgies Make You Laugh Out Loud. Internet clips featuring the antics of budgies and other birds. (R)

11.50

Police Interceptors. (R)

12.50

Police Interceptors. Damien Stevens draws his stun gun on an aggressive driver. (R)

1.50

Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. A struggling fitness instructor organises a street party. (R)

2.45

Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Wayne and Des organise a charity fundraiser. (R)

3.45

Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A Yorkshire landlord calls in eviction specialists. (R)

4.40

Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A woman visits her tenant in prison to retake possession of her flat. (R)

5.40

The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. A farmer is suspected of killing a family's dogs. (R)

6.35

The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. A Devon woman spends a night in the cells after a dispute with a neighbour who happens to be a policeman, while a York man gets an unexpected soaking after an argument. (R)

7.30

The Adele Story. Documentary charting the career of pop and soul singer Adele, beginning with her time at the star-making Brit School through to the success of her albums 19, 21 and 25. (R)

8.55

5 News Weekend.

9.00

Football on 5: The Championship. Highlights from the latest games in the Championship, which included Sheffield Wednesday v Queens Park Rangers, Leeds United v Preston North End and Hull City v Burton Albion.

10.00

Football on 5: Goal Rush. Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, which included Blackburn Rovers v Doncaster Rovers and Plymouth Argyle v Charlton Athletic.

10.30

Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights from Friday, including the contestants' reactions to the next eviction, which saw another resident receive their marching orders.

11.30

Lip Sync Battle UK: Manford v Keegan. Melanie Brown and Professor Green present the musical game show as comedian Jason Manford and actress Michelle Keegan go head to head lip-synching to a hit song. (R)

12.00

SuperCasino.

3.10

Cat 8. (R)

4.40

Lip Sync Battle UK: Manford v Keegan. (R)

5.05

Great Scientists. (R)

5.35

Wildlife SOS. (R)

August 13



Countryfile
6pm
Anita Rani and Sean Fletcher explore Dartmoor, exploring a trail that connects local artists and crafts people and investigating how Dartmoor pony foals are used in therapy.



MOTD Extra
12.15pm
Mark Chapman and guests review yesterday's Premier League fixtures and look ahead to Newcastle United v Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United v West Ham United.



The Chase Celebrity Special
6.30pm
Melanie Sykes, Heather Small, Andrew Castle and Graeme Le Saux answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.



Gogglebox: The Best Bits
10pm
The best and funniest moments from the recent series, including armchair TV reviews of Culinary Genius, Britain's Got Talent, Line of Duty and Cruising with Jane McDonald.



Autopsy: Cory Monteith
10.05pm
Forensic pathologist Jason Payne-James investigates the reasons behind the death of Glee star, Cory Monteith in a Vancouver hotel room at the age of 31.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
7.25	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents action from the opening round of Premier League fixtures, including Watford v Liverpool, Chelsea v Burnley and Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester City. (R)
9.00	BBC News.
10.00	Sunday Morning Live. Sean Fletcher and Emma Barnett present topical debate covering religious, moral and ethical issues, with guest panellists and contributions from viewers.
11.00	Homes Under the Hammer. Lucy Alexander, Martin Roberts and Dion Dublin explore properties about to be auctioned in Catford, London, in Liverpool, near the river Mersey, and in Alveston, Derby. (R)
12.00	Bargain Hunt. Extended edition in which a red team of singers and a blue team of multi-instrumentalists join experts Catherine Southon and Paul Laidlaw at an antiques fair in Edinburgh. (R)
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Wanted Down Under. Nicki Chapman helps Lisa Hoffman and her husband Math decide whether to move to Australia by showing them a selection of properties in Brisbane. (R)
2.00	Escape to the Continent. Anita Rani goes house-hunting in southern Spain with a buyer from Hertfordshire who is seeking a retreat for himself and paying guests in the province of Almeria. (R)
3.00	Flog It! People are invited to try to make money out of their antiques by taking a risk at auction. (R)
4.00	Super Small Animals. Patrick Aryee investigates what makes miniature creatures so successful, from a primate no bigger than a mouse to a chameleon that can fit on a human fingertip. (R)
5.00	Songs of Praise. Josie D'Arby attends the New Wine gathering in Somerset.
5.35	BBC News.
5.50	Midlands Today; Weather.
6.00	Countryfile. Anita Rani and Sean Fletcher explore Dartmoor, exploring a trail that connects local artists and crafts people and investigating how Dartmoor pony foals are used in therapy.
7.00	Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate whether a portrait painted in 1939 is an early work of Lucian Freud – even though Freud himself denied it. (R)
8.00	World Athletics Championships 2017. Gabby Logan presents further coverage of the 10th and concluding evening at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, featuring the finals of four more events.
10.00	BBC News.
10.20	Midlands Today; Weather.
10.30	Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents action from this afternoon's fixtures – including Newcastle United v Tottenham Hotspur at St James' Park.
11.30	Brendan Foster: A Life in Athletics. An insight into the career of the broadcaster and former athlete, who won gold as a long distance runner at the European Championships and Commonwealth Games in the 1970s. (R)
12.15	Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.20	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.20	A to Z of TV Gardening. Carol Kirkwood looks back on her alphabetical journey. (R)
7.05	The Instant Gardener. A tiny back yard is transformed into a beach garden. (R)
7.50	Gardeners' World. Monty Don gives advice this week on how to cut and maintain hedges. (R)
8.50	Countryfile. The role of flowers and plants in everyday life. (R)
9.45	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
11.15	Nadiya's British Food Adventure. Nadiya Hussain samples what London has to offer. (R)
11.45	Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. Lorraine Pascale demonstrates simple dishes completely from scratch. (R)
12.15	MOTD2 Extra. Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
1.00	World Athletics Championships 2017. Gabby Logan presents coverage of day 10 at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, featuring the men's 20km walk. Live coverage begins on the interactive service at 7.40am.
4.30	Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney. Andy Torbet sets out to cross the Pentland Firth as the ancient Orcadians would have done. (R)
5.30	Steve Backshall's Extreme Mountain Challenge. Part two of two. The naturalist explores caves within the mountains. (R)
6.30	World Athletics Championships 2017. Coverage of the 10th and concluding evening at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, featuring the finals of the men's high jump, and women's discus and 5,000m. Coverage continues on BBC1.
8.00	Secrets of Silicon Valley. Part two of two. Jamie Bartlett investigates the impact of technology on democracy, revealing how social media can be used to influence voters and spread misinformation.
9.00	North Korea: Murder in the Family. Documentary examining the murder of the North Korean dictator's half-brother Kim Jong-nam, and the roles played by an international business network and the nation's secret service.
10.00	Golf: USPGA Championship. Eilidh Barbour presents live coverage of the closing stages of day four at the fourth and final Major of the year, held at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina. Live coverage begins on the interactive service at 7.00pm.
12.15	FILM: The Body (2012). A detective investigates the disappearance of a body from a morgue, and suspects the dead woman's husband is hiding something. Thriller, with Jose Coronado and Hugo Silva.
2.00	Sign Zone: Countryfile. Ellie Harrison investigates the role flowers and plants play in everyday life, visiting a herb garden in Bristol and meeting schoolchildren who are cultivating rare orchids. (R)
2.55	Sign Zone: Holby City. Bernie is confronted with an impossible situation, Ollie and Zosia are made an offer they cannot refuse, and Lofy has fallen out of favour with Dom. (R)
3.55	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Sooty 6.30 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Oddbods 7.15 Super 4 7.30 Ninjago: Rebooted 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go ITV News.
8.25	Weekend. With Joel Dommett, Katie Derham and Gyles Brandreth.
9.25	Judge Rinder. Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
10.25	Long Lost Family. A man from Blackpool searches for his birth mother who gave him up for adoption. (R)
11.25	Love Your Garden. Alan Titchmarsh and his team transform a garden in Hythe. (R)
12.25	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.30	James Martin's French Adventure. The chef visits the region of Jura, famed for its orchards. (R)
1.00	Rebound. Quiz, hosted by Sean Fletcher. (R)
2.00	Women's Rugby World Cup 2017. England v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm).
4.45	Bear Grylls Survival School. Callum, Abbie and Jasmine all become ill. (R)
5.10	All Star Family Fortunes. With Sam Bailey and Jamelia. (R)
6.10	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.15	ITV News and Weather.
6.30	The Chase Celebrity Special. Melanie Sykes, Heather Small, Andrew Castle and Graeme Le Saux answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.
7.30	FILM: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (2010). The teenage wizard and his friends search for the magical artefacts that will allow them to destroy the evil Voldemort. Fantasy adventure, with Daniel Radcliffe and Ralph Fiennes.
10.15	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.35	Judge Rinder's Crime Stories. Barrister Robert Rinder examines the UK's biggest ever drugs bust and a robbery in a small Kent town in which £53million was stolen. Last in the series. (R)
11.35	Take Me Out. An account manager from Leeds, a housing executive from Belfast, a professional BMX rider from Portsmouth and an IT manager from Exeter try to impress 30 women and win a date. (R)
12.45	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Motorsport UK. Highlights from Snetterton, featuring round 13 of the Michelin Ginetta GT4 Supercup and round eight of the Porsche Carrera Cup GB. With commentary by Richard John Neil.
3.50	British Superbike Championship Highlights. James Haydon presents action from both races at Thruxton in Hampshire.
4.40	ITV Nightscreen.
5.05	The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

Channel 4	
6.00	Jamie's Comfort Food. Gennaro Contaldo helps Jamie Oliver make bolognese ravioli. (R)
6.15	Last Man Standing. Ryan is back in town for Christmas – but Mike is not happy.
6.40	Last Man Standing. Mandy starts an internet campaign to save a barbershop.
7.05	Last Man Standing. Mandy announces her plans to become a vegan.
7.30	Everybody Loves Raymond. The gift of a personalised toaster leaves Ray's parents less than impressed. (R)
7.55	Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray makes a shocking discovery. (R)
8.25	Frasier. A policewoman steals Frasier's heart. (R)
9.00	Frasier. The radio station's new owner visits. (R)
9.30	Sunday Brunch. With guests Martine McCutcheon and Lee Ryan.
12.30	George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. George meets a young man who bought a 70-year-old boat. (R)
1.30	The Simpsons. Homer becomes head of the local Mafia. (R)
2.00	The Simpsons. Homer fears the apocalypse is imminent. (R)
2.30	FILM: Volcano (1997). Disaster thriller, starring Tommy Lee Jones.
4.35	A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. A Brighton-based couple seek a holiday home on Ibiza. (R)
5.35	Homes by the Med. New series. Charlie Luxton visits an Ibiza mansion built of bamboo and concrete.
6.30	Channel 4 News.
7.00	FILM: Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (2014). Premiere. Nightwatchman Larry searches for a way to repair the magical artefact that brings museum exhibits to life. Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller and Robin Williams.
9.00	Valkyrien. New series. A surgeon opens an illegal underground clinic in a disused bunker, treating criminals and refugees as he seeks a cure for his comatose wife's terminal condition. Full series available online.
10.00	Gogglebox: The Best Bits. The best and funniest moments from the recent series, including armchair TV reviews of Culinary Genius, Britain's Got Talent, Line of Duty and Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R)
11.00	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Regular team captain Sean Lock and guest captain Sarah Millican are joined by Roisin Conaty and Rhod Gilbert, while David O'Doherty presides in Dictionary Corner. (R)
12.05	FILM: Ouija (2014). Horror, starring Olivia Cooke.
1.35	60 Days in Jail. Two pod bosses threaten the safety of three of the participants. (R)
2.30	Gillette World Sport.
2.55	KOTV Boxing Weekly.
3.20	Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)
3.50	Location, Location, Location. Catching up with two couples who had high expectations. (R)
4.45	Sarah Beeny's Double Your House for Half the Money. A Sheffield couple encounter problems with an extension. (R)
5.40	Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Poppy Cat 6.10 Little Princess 6.25 Mr Men 6.35 Milkshake! Monkey 6.40 Milkshake! Bopping About 6.45 Simon 6.50 Peppa Pig 6.55 Wisper 7.05 Bob the Builder 7.15 Fireman Sam 7.25 Oily the Little White Van 7.30 Paw Patrol 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.20 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.35 Floogals 8.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.05 Shimmer and Shine 9.15 Digby Dragon 9.30 Peppa Pig 9.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10.00	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. The heroes crash on an alien planet. (R)
10.25	Football on 5: The Championship. Highlights from the latest games in the Championship. (R)
11.25	Football on 5: Goal Rush. Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two. (R)
11.55	FILM: Haunted Honeymoon (1986). Comedy, starring Gene Wilder.
1.30	Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring cats.
2.00	Now That's Funny! Internet-sourced videos with an amusing family friendly hook. (R)
3.00	Disobedient Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring dogs. (R)
4.00	Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring fathers. (R)
5.00	Brides Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring weddings. (R)
6.00	Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos, including cats playing musical instruments, dressed in costumes and riding on vacuum cleaners. Narrated by Iain Lee, with commentary by Susan Calman. (R)
6.55	5 News Weekend.
7.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Paul and Steve face a moral dilemma in south London, when they find out the tenant they have been instructed to evict is on his way to a funeral. (R)
8.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In east London, High Court Enforcement Agents Paul and Phil are involved in a brothel eviction, while in south Wales, Stewart and Elmore chase a debt owed by a working mum. (R)
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.
10.05	Autopsy: Cory Monteith. Forensic pathologist Jason Payne-James investigates the death of the Glee star at the age of 31.
11.05	FILM: The Boy Next Door (2008). A novelist becomes the prime suspect when her next door neighbour is murdered, so decides to investigate the case herself. Thriller, with Dina Meyer and Woody Jeffreys.
12.40	Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)
1.05	SuperCasino.
3.10	Cat 8. (R)
4.35	Now That's Funny! (R)
5.20	Wildlife SOS. (R)
5.45	Chinese Food in Minutes. (R)

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£7,499

2009 09	ALFA ROMEO MITO 1.6 TB, 3 Door, Metallic Black, 86,000 miles	£3,999
2013 13	AUDI Q5 S-LINE PLUS 2.0 TDI QUATTRO AUTO, Grey Metallic with Nappa Leather, 68,000 Miles, Full Spec	£21,499
2013 13	AUDI A5 S 2.0TDi S-LINE QUATTRO COUPE Brilliant Red with Black Leather, 6 Speed Manual, 25,000 Miles, FSH	£16,999
2012 12	AUDI A1 S-LINE 2.0TDi 3 DOOR, Grey Metallic, Half Leather, 60,500 Miles, FSH, £20 Road Tax	£9,999
2011 11	BMW 320d M-SPORT MANUAL, Metallic Blue, 66,000 Miles, FSH	£8,999
2009 09	BMW 118i CABRIOLET, Manual, Metallic Grey, 46,000 miles, FSH	£7,499
2010 10	BMW 318D 2.0 M-SPORT 4 Door Saloon, Blue Metallic, 17" Double Spoke Alloy Wheels, 63,000 miles, £30 Road Tax	£7,999
2009 09	BMW X5 M-SPORT 3.0 Diesel AUTO, Metallic Black, Leather, Sat Nav, 50,000 miles, FSH	£17,999
2007 07	BMW X3 2.0d SE Manual, Metallic Black, Black Leather, 91,000 miles, FSH	£6,499
2013 13	CITROEN C3 1.6 HDi EXCLUSIVE 5 DOOR, Grey Metallic, 49,000 Miles, Zero Road Tax	£5,499
2012 12	CITROEN C4 VTR+ 1.6 HDi 5 DOOR, Red Metallic, 64,000 Miles, Parking Sensors, £30 Road Tax	£4,999
2012 12	CITROEN C4 GRANDE PICASSO 1.6 HDi VTR+, 7 Seater, Automatic, Metallic Blue, 36,000 miles	£7,999
2014 14	CITROEN DS3 1.2 DESIGN 3 Door, Red with Black Roof & Wheels, 15,600 Miles £20 Road Tax	£7,999
2014 14	FIAT 500L TREKKING 1.6 DIESEL, Yellow, One Owner, 10,500 Miles, FSH	£8,499
2015 15	FIAT 500 POP START STOP 3 DOOR, Green, 14,100 Miles, One Owner, FSH, £20 Road Tax	£6,499
2010 10	FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC 5 DOOR, Blue Metallic, Air Con, Alloy Wheels, 76,000 Miles	£4,699
2011 11	FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi TITANIUM 5 DOOR, Blue Metallic, 30,300 Miles, Reverse Sensors, £20 Road Tax	£5,999
2012 63	FORD FIESTA STUDIO 1.4 TDCi 5 DOOR, Silver Metallic, 59,000 Miles, £20 Road Tax	£4,999
2010 10	FORD FIESTA ZETEC 5 DOOR, Manual, Metallic Blue, 75,000 miles, FSH	£4,499
2014 14	FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6 TDCi 5 Door, Manual, Bright Red, 1 Owner, FSH	£7,499
2014 14	FORD FOCUS 1.0 ecoBOOST ZETEC 5 DOOR, Grey Metallic, 6 Speed, 45,800 Miles, £30 Road Tax	£7,999
2012 12	FORD MONDEO 1.6 TDi EDGE 5-door Hatch Manual. Metallic Silver, 49,000 miles, FSH	£6,499
2006 06	HONDA CR-V 2.2 CDTi SPORT 4x4 5 DOOR, Grey Metallic, 6 Speed Manual, Electric Sunroof, A/C	£3,999
2014 64	HONDA JAZZ 1.4 ES+ i VTEC Silver Metallic, 32,400 Miles, Climate Air Con, Privacy Glass, FSH	£7,999
2011 11	JAGUAR XF 50 V8 S PREMIUM. Luxury Auto, Metallic Black, Leather, 93,000 miles, Full Jaguar Service History	£12,999
2016 16	JEEP RENEGADE 1.6 Manual, Bright Yellow, 1 owner, 11,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2014 14	LANDROVER DISCOVERY 4 3.0 TDV6 HSE AUTO, White, Cream Leather, Sun Roof, NAV, 51,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£31,999
2010 60	LANDROVER DISCOVERY 3.0 TDV6 XS AUTOMATIC 7 Seater, Metallic Black, Black Leather, Sat Nav, Only 49,000 miles, FSH	£21,499
2012 12	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 HSE AUTO, Grey Metallic with Cream Leather, Full Spec, 41,000 Miles	SOLD
2014 64	MAZDA CX5 AWD 2.2 Diesel SPORT, Manual, Metallic Red, Leather, Sat Nav, FSH, 22,000 miles	£17,499
2007 57	MERCEDES E 320 CDI SPORT 4 DOOR, Grey with Black Leather, 7 Speed Auto, 57,000 Miles, FSH	£7,799
2005 55	MERCEDES A180 Cdi 5-door, Manual, Metallic Silver, 81,000 miles	£2,999
2007 57	MERCEDES E320 CDI 7 GEARTRONIC SPORT AUTO, Metallic Grey, Black Leather, SAT NAV, 57,000 miles, FSH	£7,499
2009 09	MERCEDES E250 CDI SPORT AUTOMATIC Metallic Silver, Full Leather, 100,000 miles, Full Mercedes Service History, Stunning Condition	£8,799
2014 14	NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 1.5 DCi 5 DOOR, Red, One Owner, 26,500 Miles, FSH, Zero Road Tax	£6,999
2014 14	PEUGEOT RCZ 1.6 GT COUPE, Grey Metallic with White Leather, 19" Alloys, One Owner, Only 10,000 Miles	£12,999
2006 06	RENAULT CLIO 1.6 AUTO, 5 door, Metallic Silver, only 49,000 miles, FSH	£2,499
2014 14	SUZUKI S CROSS 1.6 Manual, Metallic Blue, 30,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	£7,799
2017 17	SUZUKI SWIFT S2L 1.2 5 DOOR, Red with Black Alloys, Sat Nav, BRAND NEW - DELIVERY MILEAGE	£11,499
2012 62	TOYOTA HI LUX INVINCIBLE 3.0 DIESEL 4x4 DOUBLE CAB PICK UP, Silver Metallic, 38,400 Miles	£14,999 + VAT
2015 15	TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 X VVTi 5 DOOR Bright Red, 15,900 Miles, One Owner, FSH, Zero Road Tax	£6,299
2015 65	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 SE CDTi 5 DOOR Blue, Leather, 31,700 Miles, Parking Sensors, £30 Road Tax	SOLD
2011 61	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 DESIGN 7 SEATER MPV, SILVER METALLIC, 76,400 Miles, FSH	£4,999
2014 64	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi Sri NAV, Hatch Back, Metalic Silver, 24,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	£10,499
2015 15	VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 3 DOOR, Bright Yellow With Black Roof & Alloys, 12,600 Miles	£8,499
2013 12	VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDi R-Line, manual, Metallic Black, Leather, 68,000 miles, FSH	£10,999
2010 10	VW SCIROCCO GT 2.0TDi 3 DOOR, Viper Green with Black Alloys, 6 Speed Manual, FSH	SOLD
2006 S6	VW EOS 2.0 TFSi SPORT Manual, Metallic Blue, Leather, 103,000 miles, FSH	£4,299

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Smart, value-for-money supermini

By Sharon Walters

That's a bit smart, said my car enthusiast friend Gay, but what is it? I can't say I know the brand, she added before peering inside to add that she liked that as well.

It's a supermini, an MG, I replied. Really? she asked. You don't see many of those about do you?

Well it's about time we did and with MG's current expansion plans it shouldn't be too long before recognition becomes instant.

In the bad old good old days MG was a motoring force to be reckoned with but we all know what happened a few years ago. Then along came the Chinese who saved the brand and set about salvaging some sort of motoring industry at the Longbridge plant on the outskirts of Birmingham.

MG Motor UK, with strong financial backing from overseas, has now set about a major expansion of dealers throughout the UK and by the end of this year will have 90 in place.

There is a straightforward approach to franchising and low cost of set-up appeals to dealers that want to be part of a dynamic and successful organisation, to be listened to and to play a role in shaping the future direction of the franchise.

New car registration figures for MG have vastly increased almost and the brand expects to break 5,000 new car registrations at the end of the year, thanks to its MG3 and MG GS, as well as the launch of its all-new Compact SUV at the end of the year.

All vehicle design and engineering takes place at SAIC Motor UK Technical Centre (SMTC UK) in Birmingham, which employs 300 engineers and is co-located with the headquarters of MG Motor UK.

Alongside evolving the initial concepts for



There's plenty of space in the cabin

all new MG vehicles, the team also manages testing and innovation programmes. This includes a global initiative to create new, environmentally-friendly powertrain technologies.

Now back to the supermini which attracted attention.

I thoroughly enjoyed a week behind the wheel. Value-for-money is excellent and although it could do with an interior refresh, it's pretty and a nippy little mover.

Plus there's a much lower insurance rating of Group 4E, less than half of many of its competitors. And that's good news for young drivers who face exorbitant premiums on other marques.

All models benefit from front LED daytime running lights and electronic hill hold as standard. Aside from the entry level model, all MG3s feature a high-quality DAB audio system.

The exterior style is sporty, with black A-pillars and 'wrap-around' windscreen, and



You can personalise your MG3

inside it one of the largest and most spacious cabins in the Supermini class.

You get six airbags, electronic stability control, corner brake control and traction control, all as standard.

Buyers can also design their own MG3 with a wide range of colours, exterior graphics, interior colour packs and part-leather upholstery created by the UK design team and inspired by the British fashion industry.

There are four models in the MG3 line up and a full range of options and accessories. At the top of the range is the MG3 3Style+, with premium 16" 'Diamond' alloy wheels and a sports body styling pack that includes a rear boot spoiler and side sill extensions.

Standard high-tech convenience features include cruise control, automatic lights and windscreen wipers and reverse parking sensors. In addition, the MG3 3Style+ now comes with leather seats as standard.

The mid-range MG3 3Form includes air conditioning, cruise control, DAB radio,



This five-door supermini is fun, sure-footed and a comfortable ride

Bluetooth and audio streaming, a leather MG-design steering wheel with red stitching and steering wheel audio controls all as standard, over and above the entry model specification.

For those who want top-of-the-range looks but find the high level of equipment in a 3Form is enough, then there is the MG3 3Form Sport. This includes all the features of the mid-range 3Form plus the sports body styling pack and 16" 'Carousel' alloy wheels. The entry model MG3 3Time features a CD player with MP3 compatibility and Aux-in facility.

All models are powered by a sporty 106PS petrol engine with a five-speed manual

gearbox and have the same great MG chassis designed to make driving the MG3 a bit more fun than your average small car.

The car will easily cope with tall people in its airy cabin and the front seats are exceptionally comfortable, especially for longer journeys. No wiggling about when caught in jams on motorways, I found.

This five-door supermini is fun, sure-footed, a comfortable ride on all types of road and a great all-rounder.

Prices start at £8,695, with the top-of-the-range model retailing at £11,695 – almost £5,000 cheaper than many competitors.

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62	FORD FOCUS TITANIUM ECONETIC TDCI, BLACK, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 40K	£8,395
12	SKODA OCTAVIA TDI SE 2.0L 6 SPEED, BEIGE, ALLOY WHEELS, SAT.NAV, PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 47K	£8,295
62	HYUNDAI I30 TOURER EST. 1.7 CRDI, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY	£7,250
13	CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDI, AIRDREAM D STYLE PLUS, WHITE WITH BLACK ROOF, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL, F.S.H 50 ROAD TAX 23K	£7,250
11	POLO SEL Tdi 90 1.6.5 DR., SILVER, AC, ALLOY WHEELS, ONE OWN, F.S.H £30 ROAD TAX 55K	£6,995
62	KIA SOUL 2 CRDI, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 32K	£6,850
63	HYUNDAI I10E, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £30 ROAD TAX 6K	£6,195
61	CITROEN C4 VTR-HDI 91, BLUE, £20 ROAD TAX 49K	£5,495
12	SUZUKI SPLASH SZ4, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER	£30 ROAD TAX 10K
09	FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53K	£5,184
61	FIAT 500 LOUNGE, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 35K	£4,999
12	PEUGEOT 207 ALLURE AUTOMATIC, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 34K	£4,995
09	CITROEN C3 PICASSO EXCLUSIVE 1.6 HDI, GREY, PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 51K	£4,995
58	MINI COOPER S, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 68K	£4,995
10	NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 1.2, 5 DOOR, MET. RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 42K	£4,850
12	CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE HDI, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL, £20 ROAD TAX 52K	£4,695
60	FORD FIESTA EDGE 3 DOOR HATCHBACK, BRIGHT RED, AIR CON, SERVICE HISTORY 29K	£4,495
10	FORD FIESTA EDGE 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, SILVER, AIR CON, SERVICE HISTORY 63K	£4,295
12	VAUXHALL AGILA S, BLUE, £30 ROAD TAX 31K	£3,995
58	VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.4, BLACK, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY 46K	£3,995
08	FORD FOCUS ZETEC, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 75K	£3,795
08	TOYOTA YARIS TR, SILVER, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY 68K	£3,495
09	PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI SPORT, 3 DOOR, MET. BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 65K	£2,995
07	RENAULT CLIO EXTREME, 3 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 32K	£2,795
55	CITROEN C3 DESIRE, 5 DOOR, GREY, SERVICED AND CAM BELT FITTED 47K	£1,695

COMMERCIAL NO VAT

57	VAUXHALL COMBO 2000 1.7 CDTI, SILVER, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON, SERVICE HISTORY 79K	£2,895
09	PARTNER 1.6 HDI PROFESSIONAL, SILVER, SIDE DOOR, ELEC WINDOWS 112K	£2,695

COMMERCIALS PLUS VAT

65	V/W TRANSPORTER 2.0 TDI, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ONE OWNER 4K	£13,495
64	PEUGEOT EXPERT HDI, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, AIR CON, SHELVEING IN REAR 40K	£7,995
13	FORD TRANSIT SWB T280 100 bhp, 6 SPEED, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY 45K	£7,495
13	FORD TRANSIT SWB T280 100 bhp, 6 SPEED, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY 45K	£7,495
14	FORD TRANSIT T350 LWB, WHITE, HIGH TOP 125BHP, 6 SPEED, ELEC. WINDOWS, SERVICE HISTORY 74K	£7,495
13	TRANSIT 280 SWB T260 100bhp 6 SPEED, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ROOF RACK 45K	£7,495
15	CITROEN BERLINGO, WHITE, 3 SEATS, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON, PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 38K	£7,150
62	FORD TRANSIT 125BHP SWB, 6 SPEED, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY 52K	£6,995
60	VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 CDTI LWB, BLUE, AIR CON., ELEC. WINDOWS, FULL RACKING AND SHELVEING, SERVICE HISTORY 49K	£6,995
14	RENAULT KANGOO ML19 EXTRA DCI 90 WHITE, AIR CON., REAR PARKING SENSORS, SAT. NAV. 37K	£5,795
60	V/W CADDY MAXI FACELIFT LWB 1.6 TDI, BLUE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, ELEC. WINDOWS, AIR CON., RACKING IN REAR, SERVICE HISTORY 64K	£5,695
63	PEUGEOT PARTNER PROFESSIONAL 1.6 HDI, 3 SEATER, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON, ONE OWNER 54K	£5,495
62	V/W CADDY C20 PLUS Tdi, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY 61K	£5,495
11	TRANSIT CONNECT T220L, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 53K	£4,495
14	FIAT DOBLO CARGO 1.3 JTD 90 BHP, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ELECTRIC WINDOWS 59K	£4,495
61	REG.2012 VAUX. ASTRA VAN CLUB ECOFLEX 1.7 CDTI, WHITE, 6 SPEED, SERV. HIST. 78K	£3,995
08	VAUXHALL COMBO 2000 1.3 CDTI, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ROOF RACK, F.S.H, EX. BT 53K	£2,995
58	VAUXHALL CORSA VAN 1.3 CDTI, WHITE, F.S.H. EX. BT 55K	£2,895

MOTOR BIKES

11	KYMCO AGILITY RS125 SCOOTER, BLACK AND YELLOW 10K	£850
	NEW RIEJU RS3 125 LC NKD, PRE-REGISTERED, INCLUDES FIRST REG. FEE AND ROAD TAX, PRE-REGISTERED DISCOUNT OF £175 NEW	£2,996
	NEW KYMCO SUPER 8 50cc, PRE-REGISTERED, INCLUDES FIRST REG. FEE AND ROAD TAX, PRE-REGISTERED DISCOUNT OF £175 NEW	£1,496

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04 JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 AUTO AWD, Blue metallic	£2450	04 VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT, Silver	£1295
52 JAGUAR S TYPE AUTO Leather, Low Miles	£3995	03 FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible	£1795
V JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN	£90A		
CAR OF THE WEEK		4X4 COMMERCIALS	
57 FORD FUSION TDCI, DIESEL, lots of money spent, proper car	£1,995	57 SSANGYONG REXTON 2.7 TDI, Silver	£3,575
64 CITROEN DS3 STYLE Plus HDI Convertible, Deep Plum Metallic, Alloys, Low Mileage must be seen	£6795 £8495	04 TOYOTA RAV 4X4 DIESEL, Silver	£2,295
11 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC Black	SOLD	02 JEEP CHEROKEE 3.7 AUTO, Limited Edition, Low Miles for year	£1,450
06 VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History	£3795 £3295	08 HONDA CRV 2.0 ES V-Tec AUTO, Red	£4695 £4195
06 BMW 116 ISE 77k, Service History	SOLD	60 CITROEN BERLINGO 1.6 HDI Enterprise, Blue	SOLD
06 BMW X3 2.0 DIESEL Black	£4995	03 RENAULT KANGOO TREKKIA 4x4	£1395
61 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.2 Red, lady owner Only	£3395	53 PEUGEOT PARTNER QUIKSILVER MPV	SOLD
60 VAUXHALL CORSA Ecoflex Silver, 35k	£3995 £3395		
59 CITROEN C3 AIRDREAM + HDI Diesel, Cheap Road Tax	SOLD		
58 CITROEN C3 RHYTHM 1.4 HDI Diesel, Black	£2195		
58 BMW 118 SE Diesel, Grey Metallic	£5595 £4995		
56 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player	£2875		
56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic	£2895		
06 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Active 1.6, low mileage, beautiful car	SOLD		
54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 3-dr. Silver	£2495		

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WINDOWS, IMMACULATE
CONDITION

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STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, 143,
I POD CONNECTION,
IMMACULATE
CONDITION

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DESIGN 85**
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AIR CON, POWER
STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, LOW
INSURANCE, EXCELLENT
MPG, IMMACULATE
CONDITION



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EDGE ECONOTIC**
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64 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCi 115 Titanium Navigator 5dr BLACK		£10,485	15 Reg MAZDA MAZDA3 DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.2d Sport Nav 5dr RED		£10,995
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11 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec 5dr SILVER	£7,495	£6,995	17 Reg MAZDA MAZDA 6 SPORT-NAV 2.2 SKYACTIV DIESEL TOURER ESTATE(Del Miles List New £28455) SILVER		£22,489
13 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 2.0T ST-3 5dr Sports hatch BLUE	£13,695	£12,995	14 Reg MAZDA MAZDA 6 SPORT-NAV 2.2 SKYACTIV DIESEL 4dr BLUE		£13,995
65 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 2.0T EcoBoost ST-3 5dr Sports hatch TANGERINE SCREAM	£19,495	£18,485	14 Reg NISSAN JUKE HATCHBACK 1.6 Tekna 5dr RED		£10,495
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65 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCi 165 ST-3 5dr Sports hatch BLACK	£17,995	£17,495	11 Reg PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 1.0 HATCHBACK 3dr GREY		£3,485
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14 Reg FORD KUGA DIESEL 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium X 5dr 4x4 SUV WHITE	£16,495	£15,995	13 Reg VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.6 Tdi 5dr BlueMotionTech 5dr GREY		£9,495
16 Reg FORD KUGA DIESEL 2.0 TDCi 180 Titanium X Sport 5dr SUN BLACK		£19,995	63 Reg VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 MATCH EDITION 5dr RED		£8,485
12 Reg FORD MONDEO DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi EcoNetic Zetec 5dr BLUE	£15,995	£14,995			
16 Reg HYUNDAI I20 HATCHBACK 1.2 Classic 5dr SILVER		£4,995			
58 Reg KIA CEEA 1.6 "S" 5dr SILVER		£3,495			
65 Reg KIA CEEA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 CRDi LEVEL 2 5dr Auto SILVER		£10,995			
16 Reg KIA CEEA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 CRDi LEVEL 2 5dr DCT SILVER	£12,495	£11,495			
16 Reg KIA CEEA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 CRDi LEVEL 2 5dr BLACK	£11,995	£10,995			
65 Reg KIA CEEA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 CRDi LEVEL 4 EcoDynamics 5dr RED	£12,495	£11,485			
16 Reg KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITION 1.25 Chilli EcoDynamics 3dr WHITE	£8,695	£7,995			

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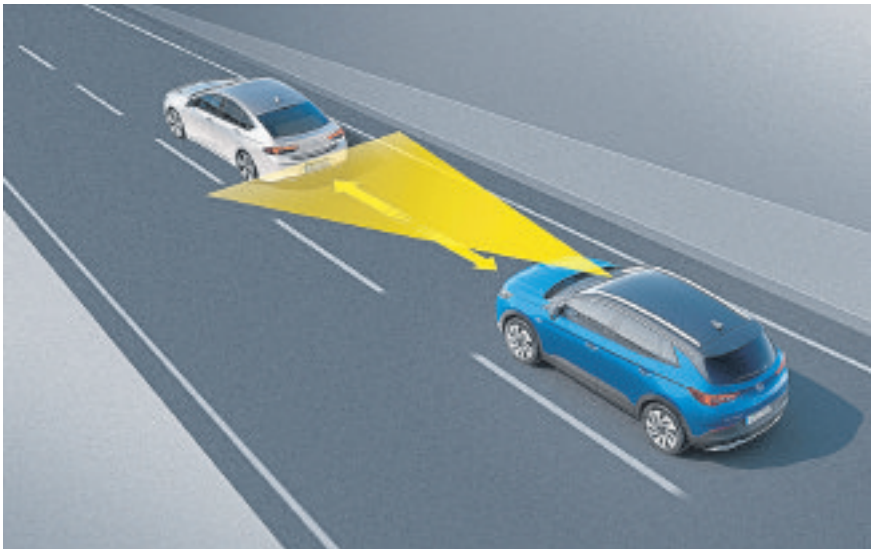
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14 Reg FIAT 500 HATCHBACK 1.2 Colour Therapy 3dr YELLOW	£6,495	60 Reg FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium 5dr GREY	£9,995
17 Reg FORD C-MAX DIESEL ESTATE 1.5 TDCi Titanium 5dr BLACK	£16,995	64 Reg FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium 5dr WHITE	£16,485
64 Reg FORD ECOSPORT HATCHBACK 1.5 Titanium 5dr BLACK	£9,995	15 Reg FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi 180 Titanium X Sport 5dr GREY	£19,695
16 Reg FORD EDGE DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi 180 Titanium 5dr RED	£29,995	17 Reg FORD KUGA VINGALE DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi Sport 2WD GREY	£24,995
66 Reg FORD EDGE DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi 210 Sport 5dr Powershift	£26,995	15 Reg FORD MONDEO DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi EcoNetic Zetec 5dr BLUE	£14,995
62 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.4 TDCi (70) Zetec 5dr BLACK	£9,485	16 Reg FORD MONDEO DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi EcoNetic Zetec 5dr BLACK	£15,485
62 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.4 TDCi (70) Zetec 5dr SILVER	£6,295	16 Reg FORD MONDEO DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi EcoNetic Zetec 5dr BLUE	£15,485
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15 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec 5dr WHITE	£7,995	63 Reg KIA CEEA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 CRDi (150) 5dr Drive Active 5dr BLACK	£7,095
15 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec 5dr WHITE	£10,495	66 Reg KIA CARENS DIESEL ESTATE 1.7 CRDi ISG 130i 5dr SILVER	£16,695
14 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 3dr BLUE	£8,485	17 Reg KIA CARENS ESTATE 1.6 GDI ISG 2 5dr SILVER	£16,485
15 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5dr SILVER	£9,695	63 Reg KIA CEEA DIESEL SPORTSWAGON 1.6 CRDi 2dr Auto RED	£8,485
63 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr BLACK	£6,695	14 Reg KIA OPTIMA DIESEL SALOON 1.7 CRDi ISG 3 4dr DCT WHITE	£17,995
14 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr BLUE	£7,995	17 Reg KIA OPTIMA DIESEL SPORTSWAGON 1.7 CRDi ISG GT-Line 5dr Sdr DCT	£23,995
14 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr BLACK	£7,995	16 Reg KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.2S 2 EcoDynamics 5dr WHITE	£7,495
65 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr RED	£9,995	17 Reg KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.2S GT-Line 5dr WHITE	£10,995
63 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr RED	£6,995	65 Reg KIA PRO CEEA HATCHBACK 1.0T GDI ISG GT-Line 3dr BLACK	£13,485
64 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.2S 82 Zetec 3dr RED	£7,295	63 Reg KIA RIO DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.1 CRDi 1 Air EcoDynamics 5dr RED	£5,795
15 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.2S 82 Zetec 3dr RED	£8,295	14 Reg KIA RIO DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.2S 1 5dr RED	£6,295
64 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.2S 82 Zetec 5dr WHITE	£6,995	14 Reg KIA RIO HATCHBACK 1.2S 1 5dr SILVER	£6,495
15 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.2S 82 Zetec 5dr WHITE	£8,485	14 Reg KIA RIO HATCHBACK 1.2S 2 5dr WHITE	£6,495
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66 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.6 EcoBoost ST-2 3dr BLUE	£13,995	66 Reg KIA SPORTAGE DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 CRDi KX-2 5dr SILVER	£21,495
15 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.6 EcoBoost 125 Titanium X 5dr BROWN	£13,695	16 Reg KIA SPORTAGE DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 CRDi KX-2 5dr Auto SILVER	£21,795
64 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.6 EcoBoost ST-2 3dr WHITE	£10,995	62 Reg KIA SPORTAGE DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 CRDi KX-3 5dr Auto BLACK	£10,995
65 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.6 EcoBoost ST-2 3dr WHITE	£12,995	56 Reg KIA SPORTAGE DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 CRDi XE 138i 5dr SILVER	£4,485
15 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.6 EcoBoost 140 Zetec S Black 3dr BLACK	£11,295	60 Reg MAZDA MAZDA2 HATCHBACK 1.5 Sport 5dr BLUE	£4,485
15 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Zetec S Black 3dr BLACK	£10,695	65 Reg MAZDA MAZDA3 DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.2d SE-L Nav 5dr Auto GREY	£13,495
66 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Zetec S Red 3dr RED	£10,795	64 Reg MAZDA MAZDA3 DIESEL SALOON 2.2d SE-L Nav 4dr Auto GREY	£12,995
66 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Zetec S Red 3dr RED	£12,695	15 Reg MAZDA MAZDA3 DIESEL TOURER 2.2d SE-L Nav 5dr GREY	£12,995
15 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec 5dr SILVER	£9,995	12 Reg MERCEDES C CLASS DIESEL COUPE C220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY AMG Sport 2dr BLACK	£12,995
64 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec 5dr WHITE	£9,495	08 Reg MITSUBISHI COLT CARBOLLET 1.5 CZCZ 2dr BLUE	£2,995
64 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCi Zetec Navigator ECDnetic 5dr SILVER	£8,495	11 Reg NISSAN JUKE HATCHBACK 1.6 Acenta 5dr (Premium Pack) SILVER	£7,995
65 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCi 165 ST-2 5dr BLUE	£16,995	14 Reg NISSAN NOTE DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr BLUE	£6,995
64 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 125 EcoBoost Titanium X 5dr BROWN	£11,695	61 Reg NISSAN QASHQAI DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.2 Dci Acenta Premium 5dr Auto (Safety Pack) WHITE	£11,495
15 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium 5dr BLUE	£11,495	10 Reg NISSAN QASHQAI HATCHBACK 1.6 Vela 5dr BLACK	£6,695
16 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec 5dr BLACK	£13,495	59 Reg NISSAN QASHQAI-2 DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr GREY	£7,995
16 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec S 5dr Auto WHITE	£13,995	15 Reg RENAULT MEGANE DIESEL SPORT TOURER 1.6 dCi GT Line TomTom Energy 5dr GREY	£9,495
66 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5dr BLUE	£13,495	14 Reg SKODA CITIGO HATCHBACK 1.0 MPI SE 5dr SILVER	£5,295
66 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr GREY	£11,995	14 Reg SKODA CITIGO HATCHBACK 1.0 MPI SE 5dr SILVER	£5,495
63 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr GREY	£9,485	16 Reg SKODA FABIA HATCHBACK 1.2 TSI SE 1 5dr RED	£10,795
15 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 125 Titanium 5dr Powershift SILVER	£11,695	64 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC COUPE 1.4T 16V 140 SRi 3dr SILVER	£5,795
09 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 Zetec 5dr BLACK	£4,485	62 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.4 16V Active 5dr SILVER	£6,485
09 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 Zetec 5dr BLUE	£4,485	61 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.2 Excite 5dr (AC) SILVER	£4,295
10 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 Zetec 5dr BLUE	£4,295	15 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.4 Limited Edition 5dr BLACK	£9,495
11 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 Zetec 5dr GREY	£6,495	13 Reg VAUXHALL ZAFIRA HATCHBACK ESTATE 1.7 CDTi ecoLEX Design 125i 5dr SILVER	£5,495
15 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 2.0T EcoBoost ST-1 5dr WHITE	£16,995	10 Reg VOLKSWAGEN GOLF DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI 105 Match 5dr SILVER	£6,995
16 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 2.0T EcoBoost ST-3 5dr CT1	£21,485	13 Reg VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI 105 BlueMotion Tech SE 5dr DSG BLUE	£7,995
64 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 2.0T ST-2 5dr WHITE	£13,995	61 Reg VOLKSWAGEN POLO DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.2TDI BlueMotion 3dr SILVER	£6,295
65 Reg FORD GALAXY DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi 180 Titanium 5dr Powershift SILVER	£22,995	62 Reg VOLKSWAGEN POLO HATCHBACK 1.2 60 S 5dr SILVER	£5,695
15 Reg FORD KA HATCHBACK 1.2 Metal 3dr (Start/Stop) BLACK	£6,495	11 Reg VOLKSWAGEN SCIROCCO DIESEL COUPE 2.0T 170 GT 3dr BLACK	£11,495
64 Reg FORD KA HATCHBACK 1.2 Titanium 3dr (Start/Stop) RED	£5,995	15 Reg VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech Match 5dr DSG BLACK	£14,995

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MOTURING



The Vauxhall GrandlandX has an impressive portfolio of ultra-modern assistance features

Staying safe and alert with new Vauxhall Grandland X

By James Parker

The all-new Vauxhall Grandland X is setting standards for its safety systems, as the latest SUV from Vauxhall sees the launch of Driver Drowsiness Alert. The Grandland X will make its premiere at the Frankfurt International Motor Show (IAA) next month, and be at dealerships shortly after.

The Grandland X is adding to its already impressive portfolio of ultra-modern assistance features, which include Forward Collision Warning with Automatic Emergency Braking and pedestrian detection, Advanced Park Assist and Automatic Cruise Control.

Level

The latest system, Driver Drowsiness Alert adds another level of safety to the technology packed Grandland X, bringing premium levels of safety to the SUV segment from just £22,310 on-the-road.

The new Driver Drowsiness Alert on the Grandland X triggers an audio and visual warning if the vehicle veers unexpectedly, suggesting driver fatigue or inattention. A message will be displayed in the driver information cluster and an alert will be sounded. If the vehicle continues to show signs of driver drowsiness after three warnings, a second alert message will be displayed along with a louder signal.

"Driving while tired poses a risk not just for the drivers but for all road users," said Ian Mitchell, Grandland X's product manager.

"The Driver Drowsiness Alert system in the Grandland X can detect the typical signals of fatigue so it can remind

drivers to take regular breaks during long journeys, helping to prevent an accident."

In addition to Driver Drowsiness Alert, the Vauxhall Grandland X also delivers optimum night-time visibility without dazzling others.

The optional AFL LED headlights produce a bright white light that automatically adapt to the driving situation. Drivers are offered additional peace of mind with Vauxhall OnStar, the personal connectivity and service assistant that offers services including Stolen Vehicle Assistance, and a Wi-Fi hotspot for outstanding connectivity. OnStar can also help tired drivers find a carpark or book a hotel room, automatically updating the vehicle's navigation system so the driver can focus on the road.

Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League

Premier Division 1st XI

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Knowle & D.	15	10	1	3	0	1252
Berkswell	15	8	3	0	2	240
Shrewsbury	15	10	1	4	0	239
Ombersley	15	8	1	4	0	211
Barnt Green	15	6	1	6	0	2176
Dorridge	15	5	2	7	0	1168
W8 Dartmouth	15	5	2	7	0	1164
Wolverhampton	15	6	5	0	1	1161
Kenilworth W.	15	5	3	5	0	1160
Walsall	15	5	1	8	0	1134
Kidderminster	15	2	2	10	0	115
Bromsgrove	15	2	2	9	0	2

Division One 1st XI

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Mossley	15	8	1	5	0	1227
Himley	15	8	2	4	0	1206
Smethwick	15	6	3	3	1	2204
Stourbridge	15	6	1	8	0	2212
Bromsgrove	15	7	3	0	2	2202
Tamworth	15	7	1	6	0	2200
Barnards Green	15	6	2	6	1	1817
Shifnal	15	6	1	8	0	1817
Leamington	15	4	4	6	1	1816
Wellington	15	3	3	7	1	1144
Walmley	15	4	2	7	0	2141
Attock	15	3	8	0	1	1136

Division Two 1st XI

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Fordhouses	15	10	1	4	0	2246
Oswestry	15	10	1	4	0	2245
Pershore	15	6	4	0	1	2123
Halesowen	15	1	2	0	1	205
C & R Hawks	15	5	3	5	0	1912
Sutton Coldfield	15	3	5	5	1	3163
Wombourne	15	5	2	6	0	2162
Old Hill	15	4	3	6	0	2145
Perkridge	15	5	2	7	0	2144
Harborne	15	3	4	7	0	1139
Coventry & NW 15	4	4	0	4	0	3134
Old Elizabethans	15	2	1	9	1	2122

Division Three 1st XI

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Lichfield	15	9	1	4	1	2019
Milford Hall	15	9	0	6	1	2218
Streety	15	8	0	5	0	2217
Kenilworth W.	15	7	1	7	0	2212
Astwood Bank	15	8	0	4	0	2209
Newport	15	7	3	4	0	1191
Sentinel	15	6	1	7	0	1186
Handsworth	15	6	1	7	1	1176
Stratford-U-Avon	15	5	2	8	0	1165
Brewd	15	5	1	7	0	1168
Worcester Nom	15	3	1	10	0	2114
Nuneaton	15	1	3	9	0	1191

Premier Division 2nd XI

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Wolverhampton	15	11	0	1	0	3264
Walmley	15	9	1	2	0	3240
Knowle & D.	15	8	2	3	0	2221
Kenilworth W.	15	8	1	6	0	2221
Shifnal	15	6	4	4	0	1191
Mossley	15	6	3	5	0	1189
Harborne	15	5	2	6	0	2166
Himley	15	5	2	4	0	2132
Astwood Bank	15	3	1	11	0	1020
Bromsgrove	15	2	2	10	0	1119
Halesowen	15	2	3	10	0	1104

Division One 2nd XI

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Attock	15	8	2	5	0	2255
W8 Dartmouth	15	8	2	5	0	2257
Tamworth	15	5	2	5	0	2250
Bromsgrove	15	5	2	5	0	2187
Walsall	15	6	2	5	0	2187
Ombersley	15	5	4	4	0	2177
Berkswell	15	5	3	5	0	2177
Kenilworth W.	15	5	3	5	0	2177
Coventry & NW 15	5	1	8	0	1	1165
Old Elizabethans	15	4	5	2	0	2148
Kidderminster	15	4	2	7	0	2146
Smethwick	15	4	1	8	0	2138

Division Two 2nd XI (N)

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Shrewsbury	15	11	3	1	0	2280
Perkridge	15	6	4	4	1	2282
Brewd	15	6	4	4	1	2282
Fordhouses	15	6	3	0	2	206
Brighdonth	15	7	3	5	0	2023
Milford Hall	15	6	4	4	1	2191
Newport	15	5	2	7	0	1970
Wellington	15	5	2	7	0	1976
Oswestry	15	4	3	6	2	1653
Sentinel	15	5	3	5	0	1613
C & R Hawks	15	4	2	8	0	1147
Lichfield	15	1	3	10	0	193

Division Two 2nd XI (S)

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Pershore	15	10	2	3	0	2252
Wombourne	15	10	0	3	0	2243
Stord-U-Avon	15	9	1	4	0	2233
Nuneaton	15	8	1	4	0	2204
Dorridge	15	6	1	6	0	2189
Old Hill	15	7	1	7	0	1815
Handsworth	15	6	1	8	0	2175
Streety	15	6	1	7	1	1172
Sutton Coldfield	15	5	1	6	0	3157
Worcester Nom	15	4	0	9	0	1413
Stourbridge	15	3	1	8	0	3133
Barnards Green	14	1	1	12	0	0

Henshalls Shropshire County Cricket League

Premier

P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Whitchurch	15	10	1	3	3	3624
Worfield	15	10	2	2	1	29251
Ludlow	15	9	2	3	1	29232
Hust	15	1	4	0	1	26222
Wem	15	10	0	5	0	22228
Brosley	15	9	1	5	0	32223
Newtown	15	7	0	8	0	38185
St Georges	15	4	2	8	1	55143
Colindale	15	9	1	10	0	52107
Frankton	15	4	2	9	0	52130
Market Drayton	15	4	0	10	1	40114
Albington	15	4	0	10	1	6859

Division 1

P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Bomere Heath	15	13	2	0	1	36308
Cound	15	9	1	3	2	29241
Knockin & Kinn	15	7	2	4	2	37208
Worfield	15	7	2	4	2	37208
Wroter Grove	15	6	2	6	0	50187
Conderover	15	8	2	5	0	32196
Beacon	15	6	0	7	2	41190
Shelton	15	6	0	7	2	45187
Worfield	15	5	0	8	2	45187
Montgomery	15	5	0	8	2	42166
Forton	15	2	0	12	1	53115
Lliffelsh	15	2	0	12	1	62112

Division 2

P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Ross on Wye	14	8	1	5	0	26269
Cleobury Mort	15	7	3	4	5	245
Canon Frome	15	5	3	4	8	243
Lebury	14	6	3	4	4	214
Colindale	15	9	1	10	0	2017
Garnons	15	6	2	3	4	1996
Hallow	15	6	2	3	4	19189
Abergavenny	15	5	6	3	2	181
Dales, Hereford	15	4	8	2	5	1047
Goodhampton	15	5	3	3	4	147
Woolhope	15	3	9	3	4	146
Glangwynyne	15	2	11	3	0	117

Division 3

P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Strollers, H'ford	9	3	3	3	6	279
Stord-U-Avon	15	6	3	5	1	198
Abergavenny	15	6	2	3	6	2029
Garnons	15	7	3	4	1	12199
Moccas	15	5	3	3	6	192
Lebury	14	4	8	2	8	11
Goodhampton	15	3	3	6	10	153
Built Wells	15	2	8	2	4	142
Canon Frome	15	1	2	6	20	98
Burg, Till & Weo	15	1	6	26	29	31

Division 2

P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Pontesbury	15	12	1	2	0	18284
Alcott	15	12	1	2	0	21283
Shifnal	15	8	2	5	0	40211
Ellesmere	15	8	1	5	1	31206
Wheaton Aston	15	6	2	5	0	24020
Church Aston	15	6	2	5	0	24181
Wille	15	6	2	5	0	51171
Shrewsbury	15	5	1	7	2	42159
Wellington	15	5	3	3	9	62157
Pres	15	5	2	1	8	35143
Bishops Castle	15	4	1	8	2	40133
Church Stretton	15	1	1	13	0	4776

Division 3

P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Harpers	15	10	1	3	1	28244
Hod, Peg & T	15	9	2	3	1	36235
Calverhall	15	7	1	6	1	55222
Ludlow	15	8	0	5	2	43219
Cae Glas	15	9	0	6	0	29215
Is & Fennis Bk.	15	7	1	5	2	44215
Chelmars	15	6	2	6	1	55189
St Georges	15	6	1	8	0	52188
Much Wenlock	15	5	2	6	2	33158
Tsuill & S'adon	15	5	1	8	1	45157
Acton Reynald	15	2	1	10	1	11118
Corvedale	15	2	1	10	1	38101

Division 4

P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Overton-on-Dee	14	10	3	1	0	23261
Alcott	14	10	3	1	0	23261
Brighdonth	14	10	0	4	0	19225
Hinstock	13	8	1	3	1	29220
Gulfield	14	7	1	4	2	25183
Coton Hall	13	5	0	5	0	37171
Gusidale	14	7	1	4	2	48131
Llandiloes	14	3	2	8	1	39111
Wroxeter Grove	14	4	1	8	0	36198
Harcourt	14	3	2	8	1	2565
Oswestry	13	1	0	10	2	2333

Division 1

P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Worfield	15	12	0	2	1	13287
Wem	15	11	1	3	1	22125
Frankton	15	10	0	3	0	22229
St Georges	15	5	0	3	0	48209
Wroter Grove	15	7	1	6	1	30189
Knockin & Kinn	15	3	3	8	1	70156
Quatt	15	4	1	8	2	52148
Ross on Wye	14	8	1	5	0	21213
Hay-on-Wye	14	3	4	3	1	29195
Strollers, H'ford	14	5	6	2	5	0178
Bromsgrove	16	7	1	7	0	1182
Sosbury	14	4	7	3	4	163
Brookhampton	13	6	2	3	3	65136
Colwall	13	2	6	3	3	134
Woolhope	14	8	2	3	9	125
Bewley	14	7	2	6	1	1219
B'stree & Lug	14	4	5	2	1	6053
Glangwynyne	14	1	8	10	2	24308

Division 2

15	10	2	3	0	27	273
15	11	1	3	0	15	266
15	9	2	2	2	26	262
15	7	2	5	1	31	215
15	9	1	5	0	18	212
15	7	3	4	1	43	208
15	8	2	4	1	23	191
15	5	6	3	1	41	187
15	6	2	7	0	35	181
15	5	2	6	2	48	180
15	3	5	5	2	70	177
15	5	2	7	1	32	153

Church B bowlers on the up after vital victory

CHURCH B boosted hopes of escaping relegation trouble in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division two with a timely 8-2 home success against basement rivals George.

Having been dragged into danger in recent weeks, Church rallied as William Lewis led the way by winning to six and Graham Mansfield to seven to help their side to a 40 shots (161-121) success.

Church are now third from bottom, seven points above the relegation places, while George are one place above. Their two wins came from Andy Knott and Merv Roberts to 17 and 18 respectively.

At the other end of the table, **CHURCH A** are now seven points adrift of top spot after their slender 6-4 loss away at **CRIFTINGS B** who took the aggregate by just six shots (130-124).

Steve Williams maintained his winning ways to stay top of the second division averages with his 16th success in 17 outings - but it was a closely fought affair as he edged out Ian Miner 21-20.

Ron Croke (21-5) and John Roberts (21-6) were the biggest winners while Rob Clay and Peter Griffiths took the coppers for Criftings, both prevailing to eight.

Verdict

Cynwyd A tightened their grip on top spot as they whitewashed promotion hopefuls **LLAN-RHAEADR A** 10-0, taking the aggregate by 78 shots (168-90).

WESTON RHYN A, in fourth position, also lost ground on the promotion places in their closely contested 7-3 reverse at Plas Kynaston A who took the aggregate by just eight shots (145-137).

Andrew Riley was again in fine form for Rhyn, winning to 13 to notch his 14th victory of the campaign, while Richard Oakley made it 13 wins personally after his 21-12 success.

John Harrison is another bowler going well, with his 21-12 success (his 13th win of the season) helping mid-table **ELLESMERE A** to a 6-4 (150-138) verdict away to basement side **WHITTINGTON B**.

John Edwards (21-9) took the coppers for the Meresiders while Richard Beaman (21-13) and Eileen Sinkler and Kevin Williams (both to 18) responded.

Good wins from Paul Edwards (21-10) and Julie Edwards (21-14) helped **YE OLDE CROFTE A** to a comfortable 9-1 (166-129) verdict over relegation threatened Llany-nog A.

Ifton on rise after big win against Bylet

IFTON lifted themselves off the foot of the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League with a timely 11-3 (236-174) home success against fellow strugglers Bylet.

Darren Lacey and Brian Hayes led the way, both with 21-1 romps, as the St Martins side moved up to fourth from bottom in a congested lower half of the table. Lacey is now top of his side's averages with 12 wins this term.

Buoyed buy the win, Ifton will now be looking for more of the same at home to another of their basement rivals, Bylet, on Thursday night before visiting Meole Brace the following night.

Dicky Jones notched a 21-11 victory while Leighton Roberts weighed in with a 21-13 success and Craig Griffiths won to 14.

Other wins came from Keiron Roberts (21-16), Geraint Williams (21-17) Martin Jones (21-18) while Curtis Metcalfe won the closest game of the night when edging out Gary Whitehall to 20.

Saints start season with away defeat

ST MARTINS suffered an early setback when going down to a slender 2-1 loss away to Bromyard in their opening action in the West Midlands League division one.

The Saints had gone into the game looking to build on a terrific finish to last season when securing an eighth place position after winning eight of their last 14 games.

After pulling level at Bromyard, when Jamie Durman headed in a shot from Dave Easthope, they looked set to return with some reward only to be

downed by a stunning strike.

St Martins started the game strongly with the first chance coming in the opening five minutes with a header from Elliott Howes flying over the bar.

Kieran Barry saw a curling effort from 25 yards tipped around the post but Bromyard took the lead when, following a counter-attack, the initial effort was saved before the follow-up was smashed into the back of the net.

The Saints started the second half with purpose, with Tom Ash going close to grabbing an equaliser

from a corner, but his effort was flicked over the bar.

But they did level as a Easthope shot was headed in by Durman at the far post, boosting hopes of taking all three points.

Bromyard were then reduced to 10 men, but stunned their visitors with a stunning strike to take the spoils.

It was a disappointing start, with St Martins looking to open their account when they travel to Darlaston Town on Saturday for their second game of the season.

Davies double sees Berriew to Cup win

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

BERRIEW gave themselves an early tonic after picking up their first silverware of the new campaign when edging out Carno 2-1 in the Spar Mid Wales League Summer Cup final.

The encounter pitted together the two teams who finished third and second respectively in the league last season, and it was the Rhiewsidars who took the spoils in an entertaining affair thanks to a brace from last term's leading scorer Richard Davies.

"It's a weird feeling picking up a trophy in the first game," said manager Dave Jones.

"It was a good game, particularly in the first half, and it was nice to beat a good team like Carno who will be there or thereabouts this season."

Both sides played some excellent football, particularly in the first half, and it was Carno took the lead midway through the first period with a fine effort from Peter Rees who latched onto a ball over the top before neatly lobbing keeper Dave Jones.

Berriew were level moments later when good work on the right between George Davies and Steff Rogers saw George Davies cross into the box for Richard Davies to head home firmly.

Both sides had their chances, Carno having strong penalty claims turned down, while the hosts also brought a couple of fine saves from keeper Jones, while at the other end Will Gittins fired over with the goal begging.

The second half became more scrappy, but Berriew pounced for the winner with eight minutes left as a Marc Jones through ball sparked a mix-up in the Carno defence, and Rich Davies poked the ball past the advancing keeper and into the net from 20 yards.

A few days earlier, Berriew warmed up for the cup game with a 4-3 friendly win over Bishop's Castle. Davies again scored twice along with Karl Seliarts and an own goal.

The Rhiewsidars have already shown why they are one of the sides tipped to challenge for league honours this season, as well as lifting more silverware.

They start their campaign at home to Bow



The victorious Berriew team after their 2-1 victory over Carno in the Spar Mid Wales League Summer Cup final

Street on Saturday, while Llanfair United - who have dropped down to the Spar League division one this season from the Cymru Alliance - open with a tricky trip to newly promoted Churchstoke.

Llanrhaeadr, another of the sides tipped to do well this season, entertain Aberaeron in their league opener.

WELSHPOOL who launch their campaign away to new boys Borth United, have bolstered their side with three new signings.

Will Thomas has returned from Cymru Alliance side Caersws, while Ian Probert has also re-signed

after a season with the Bluebirds. Trewern defender Ryan Evans, who has had experience with Waterloo Rovers, has also joined.

Christian Webster has left the Maesydyr club for Forden while Sam Bowers has moved to local rivals Berriew.

Opening Spar League fixtures

Friday, August 11 (7pm) - Division One: Radnor Valley v Llandrindod Wells. **Division Two:** Abermule v Llanstffraid Village

Saturday August 12 (2.30pm) - Division One: Berriew v Bow Street, Borth Unit v Welshpool, Churchstoke v Llanfair Utd, Llanidloes Town v Knighton, Llanrhaeadr v Aberaeron, Machynlleth v Kerry, Tywyn Bryn-crug v Carno. **Division Two:** Dolgellau v Brecon Northcote, Dyffryn Barw v Hay St Mary's, Newbridge v Montgomery, Talgarth v Presteigne.

Results

Division one: Chirk A 9 (167) Johnstown B 1 (133), Flexsys A 4 (133) Ruabon A 6 (143), Ceiriog Valley A 8 (146) Criftings A 2 (83), Llany-mynech A 8 (157) Whittington A 2 (121), Johnstown A 7 (164) Llangollen A 3 (122). No fixture: Corwen A.

Division two: Church B 8 (161) George 2 (121), Criftings B 6 (130) Church A 4 (124), Cynwyd A 10 (168) Llanrhaeadr A 0 (90), Plas Kynaston A 7 (145) Weston Rhyn A 3 (137), Ye Olde Crofte A 9 (166) Llany-nog 1 (129), Whittington B 4 (138) Ellesmere A 6 (150).

Division three: Chirk B 7 (149) Ceiriog Valley C 3 (122), Johnstown C 8 (147) Llangollen B 2 (109), Black Lion 3 (136) Johnstown D 7 (138), Criftings C 7 (143) Fox Lane 3 (135), Ceiriog Valley B 9 (164) Church C 1 (111), Ellesmere B 6 (141) Bersham 4 (116).

Division four: Llanrhaeadr D 6 (151) Llany-nog C 4 (116), Whittington E 3 (143) Llanrhaeadr C 7 (160), Weston Rhyn C 8 (158) Plas Kynaston 2 (111), Llanfyllin A 3 (129) Ifton 7 (143), Llanymynech B 7 (154) Ruabon B 3 (117).

Division five: Ye Olde Crofte B 2 (128) Criftings E (148), Corwen B 4 (128) Chirk C 6 (133), Llanymynech C 3 (121) Pentre Broughton 7 (154), Whittington C 7 (138) Llanrhaeadr B 3 (131), Criftings D 6 (149) Johnstown E 4 (133), Weston Rhyn B 7 (144) Church D 3 (124).

Division six: Chirk D 1 (118) Ponciau Park B 9 (154), Llanfyllin B 7 (155) Overton C 3 (100), Church E 2 (124) Weston Rhyn D 8 (159), Ponciau Park A 9 (166) Cynwyd C 1 (95), Llanrhaeadr E 2 (110) Whittington D 8 (163).

The latest returns from Shropshire golf clubs

HENILLE PARK

Dave Salter 9 Hole Comp: D Graham 19pts (cb); Dave Butler 19pts; Al Brown 19pts.
Seniors' Individual Stableford: Mike Jones 40pts; John Thomas 37pts (cb); Chris Clarke 37pts.

HILL VALLEY

Shop Stableford: T Sheridan 42pts (12); J R Jones 37pts (26); F Howard 35 pts (23).
Midweek Stableford: M Williams 39pts (16) D Fisher 37pts (26); R Lancaster 37pts (14).

Ladies' Captains Charity: B Sierstema & Se Tamura 81-26.5=54.5; S Wynn & I Stiles 84-25.5=58.5; C Pickering & C Sheard 84-24=60.

Senior Salver 15 holes (Emerald): S De-Baro 97-21=66; G Thomas 83-16=67; S Coupe 77-10=67.

LILLESALL

Jubilee Cup: Mark O'Connor 44; Julian Withers 40; Mark Williams 39; David Green 39.
Ladies' Shaker Bowl: Jo Cole 75+64=139; Rebecca Buckingham 70+72=142; Margaret Edwards 75+73=148; Alice Drewnicki 81+69=150; Denise Morton 72+78=150.

Juniors' Shield: Jack Morrey 88-24=64; Rory McDonalds O'Brien 70-3=67; Dani Hoof 70-1=69.

LLANYMYNECH

Family Cup: Clive & KT Andrew 63.2; Dave & Steve Jones 65.6; Tom & Libby Weetman 66.4.

Father & Son Cup: Dave & Harry Barbour 64.6; Roy & Mark Davenport 64.8; Ian & Craig Walker 66.4.

Midweek League (9 Hole Stableford): Clive Andrew 23pts; Merv Davies 22; Gary Pugh 21; Jason Bailey 21; Nigel Kelton 21; Dave Collins 20; Alwyn Davies 15; Jack Bottomley 19; Terry Williams 19; Adrian Jones 19; Adam Clewlow 19; Jeremy Dell 19.

Midweek League (9 Hole Stableford): George Rodger 23pts, Will Owen 22; Dave Jones 22; Clive Andrew 22; Adam Hilditch 21; David Yapp 21; Simon Pugh 21; Rod Lewis 21; Bill Lee 20; Tush Maitra 20; Joel Williams 20; Terry Williams 20; Luca Molin 20.

Club Championship Gross (36 holes): Sam Roberts 74+73=147; Dave Griffiths 75+73=148; Tom King 75+74=149; James Hampson 74+ 75=149; Dave Humphreys 76+74= 150; Nik Roberts 77+78=150; Davd Sheppard 74+77=151; George Hughes 74+77=151; Tom Worley 72+79=151.

Midweek League (9 Hole Stableford): Luca Molin 25pts; Chris Tinsley 23; Nathan Cooke 22; Roy Davenport 20; Joe Roberts 20; Keith Davies 20; Tom Beddow 19; John Turner 19; Bill Lee 19; David Yapp 19; Dave Jones 19; Alwyn Davies 19.

Ron Leonard Cup: Daniel Jones 72 -7=65 (after cb); Jim Logsdail 72-7= 65; Tim Thomas 79-13=66; Will Owen 81-15=66; Ian Tomkewycz 76-9=67; Jason Smith 78-11=67; Phil Jones 84-17=67; Roy Davenport 81-13=68; Tom Beddow 72-4=68; Steve Prichard 78-9=69.

Ladies' Ping 4BBB Stableford Winners: Val J. Jones/Helen Whiting 50pts. Runners Up: Ann Holmes/Tanya Cook 46pts.

Lady Captain's Day - Lady Captain's Prize: Julie Gibson, Best Gross: Ann Weetman. Past Lady Captains Prize: Janice Stanistreet. Division 1: Lesley Cookson, Bev Cadwallader, Julia Howell; Division 2: Val J. Jones; Sue McMahon; Ceri Broughall; Division 3: Diana Chadwick; Mervyl Andrew; Pam Larby.

MARKET DRAYTON

July Medal Division 1: Ian Corcoran (6) 69; Ian Hand (6) 71; Gareth Dean (11) 72; Division 2: Laurence Sidwell (16) 67; Nick Morris (13) 71; Philip Firth (13) 71; Division 3: Andrew Clifton (23) 69; Ian Bowden (19) 72; Terry Yale (22) 75.

Annefield Scratch Trophy 2017 Winner: Matt Birch, runner-up: Peter Yelland.

Club Handicap Championship 2017 Winner: Jose Meljauer, runner-up: Darren Weetman.
Men's Open: M Austin (9) & B J Moss (12) 41 pts; Michael Taylor (8) & Andrew Hodgson (14) 41; Trevor Meller (12) & Keith Pary (21) 41.

MILE END

July Medal Division 1: Darren Williams 76-10=66; Derek Birch 74-8=66; Peter Jarvis 77-10=67; Division 2: Gordon 80-10=64; Ian Beckett 86-17=69; Peter Beckett 89-19=70; Division 3: Cathal O'Gorman 89-22=67; Kevin Reeves 98-26=72; Colin Wildblood 92-20=72. Nearest The Pins: Amanda.

John Wilson Charity Day: Roy Roberts 40pts; James Davies 39pts; Adam Williams 39pts. Nearest 17th Hole: Ken McBrien 2m 22. Nearest The Pin: Ken Scott 5th Hole: Bryan Jones 5th Hole. Nearest The Pin second shot 18th Hole: Paul Miles 2m 18. Longest Drive: Keiran Davies.

Sunday 9 Hole Social Winners: Moya Holmes, Peter Bailey, Janice 42pts; Keith Evans, Jim Reilly, Sheila Russell 42pts; Paul Eke, Sue Robson, Barry Lingard 42pts.

Ladies' John Wilson Charity Day Winner: Angela Eke 37pts. Ladies Nearest The Pin 3rd Hole: Di Bradbury 0.99cm. Ladies Longest Drive: Sheila Russell.

Seniors' July Medal Division 1: Richie Rogers 82-14=68; Ian Horler 85-15=70; John Turner 85-14=71; Division 2: Barry Lingard 86-19=67; Jeff Farmer 89-20=69; John Davies 90-20=70; Division 3: Jim Reilly 100-28=72; John Roberts 98-25=73; Mike Godfrey 97-24=73.

OSWESTRY

Ladies' Invitation 4BBB Stableford: Tania Pearce & Isabel Green 41pts; Margaret Brodgen & Becki Bels 41pts; Maura Givitt & Sandra Griffiths 37pts; Sarah Williams & Anne Evans 36pts (cb).

SHREWSBURY

Ladies' 18 Hole Stableford Division 1: Karen Thwa 33pts; Margaret Burge 37pts; Chris Nash 34pts; Division 2: Maura Givitt & Sandra Griffiths 37pts; Maggie Williams 30pts; Division 3: Sheila Evans 33pts; Rosie Malcolm 31pts; Mair Harris 29pts.

Weekend 18 Hole Stableford: Marie O'Sullivan 35pts; Jean Evans 33pts; Pamela Mason 25pts.

THE BROW

Midweek Stableford: Terry Brough 41pts; John Youens 36; Keith Abbott 36.

Clb Fairbanks Memorial Trophy: Ian Robertson 42pts (cb); Mike Clark 42; John Youens 37. Longest Drive: Brian Stuttard. Nearest The Pin: Peter Morris.

WREKIN

Seniors' 18 Hole Stableford 5: Bernie English 39/22; Glyn Evans 35/8; Bill Carline 34/20.

Promoted Llanymynech riding high

ON-SONG Llanymynech A continue to go great guns in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division one after putting paid to visitors Whittington A.

Promoted to the top flight this season, Llany cemented third spot after proving too strong for their visitors as they ran out 8-2 (157-121) winners.

Young prospect Kieran Jones led the way, while there were three 21-11 victors - Henry Pugh, Paul Smith and James Candlin, who is third in the averages after notching his 14th win of the campaign.

Mervyn Davies and Julian Turner won to 15 and 16 respectively for Whittington who remain sixth in the table.

Although they are now third in the table, Llany remain 14 points adrift of defending champions and title favourites Glyn Ceiriog A who marched on at the top after their 8-2 (146-83) beating of **CRIFTINGS A**.

The Dudleston Heath side were well beaten, their two replies coming from Gary Wilkie (21-14) and Sandra Barker (21-6).

They are seventh in the table, but just seven

BOWLS by John Bridgwater

points above the relegation places in a congested bottom half.

Second placed Chirk A swept aside Johnstown B 9-1, taking the aggregate by 34 shots (167-133) to stay in sight of the leaders.

BLACK LION'S challenge in division three suffered a setback as they slipped to a 7-3 home loss to promotion rivals Johnstown D who took the aggregate by just two shots (138-136).

Mark Jones was the top performer for Lion, winning to six, while Andrew Jones prevailed to 10, but their efforts were not enough to stave off a narrow defeat.

Black Lion remain second, one point ahead of Johnstown, and three points adrift of leaders Glyn Ceiriog C who went down 7-3 (149-122) away to Chirk B.

In division four, third placed **IFTON** stayed on the promotion trail after their 7-3 (143-129) success away to Llanfyllin A.

Monty win as cricketers in tribute to tragic James



James Corfield

IN a poignant encounter, Montgomery notched a timely four wicket win over Alberbury to climb away from basement danger in the Henshalls Shropshire League division one.

It was the first game since the tragic death of Monty's talented all-rounder James Corfield, and both sides marked the event with an entertaining game played in great spirit.

The result was secondary on a special day, but it was Monty who prevailed in an exciting finish as they chased down 152 to win with five balls remaining.

Opener Michael Crawshaw top scored with 65 as Alberbury made 151-9 in 45 overs after batting first, Sam Williams taking 3-29 off eight overs, Alex Bromley 2-20 and Aaron Ruff-Cock 2-30.

After the loss of early wickets to Sam Morris (3-20), Ruff-Cock led the chase with 53 while Rob Bennett's 25 helped the home side over the line in the last over.

MONTGOMERY II's challenge in the 2nd XI League division two suffered a setback as they slipped to an eight wicket loss in their top of the table affair at leaders Wellington IV.

Opting to bat first, they were bundled out for 87, Rob Yewdall providing the only real resistance with 37.

Wellington then made short work of the target despite two wickets from Yewdall (2-35), with Sean Ward-Clayton top scoring with 37 to clinch victory in the 17th over.

GUILDSFIELD notched a low scoring win over Wroxeter Grove III to maintain their push for a top five finish in the Shropshire League division four.

Put in to bat, lowly Wroxeter were restricted to 77-7 in their 30 overs with Dave Lewis taking 4-24, and Guildsfield, despite losing six wickets, got home in the 17th over to pick up 20 points.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY's home encounter with Cound in division one was washed out with no play, the teams each picking up five points.

Oswestry sign off the season in style

TENNIS by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY Tennis Club's men's first team secured survival in the Shropshire Doubles League group three with thrilling victories against Boughey Gardens and Worfield.

With the new scoring system introduced this season that gives no win bonus points, it meant that only three teams in the group were safe from the relegation with two games remaining.

Needing to secure a minimum of five points from these two fixtures, the team delivered in fine style to end the season on a high note - as did the second team who gained promotion from Group 5N.

The first team's penultimate game was going to prove a tall order against Boughey Gardens III who had already secured promotion, but they rose to the challenge to take the match 3-1.

The first two rubbers went the way of the home team with both pairs of Gary Edwards and new club member Martin Shortt and captain Saffron Rainey and Oliver Tombs winning in straight sets 6-2, 6-0 and 6-3, 6-4 respectively.

In the reverse rubbers, Edwards and Shortt were just as dominant in winning 6-1, 6-0, while Rainey and Tombs lost to the Boughey first pair to give the home team three points.

The final fixture of the season was the long trek to Worfield II, and the team knew that a minimum of two points were required against a team who themselves needed to get all four points to keep their survival hopes alive.

Two new pairings for Oswestry were sent out and they performed excellently as the team returned with another 3-1 success to guarantee safety. Rainey partnered Shortt and Matt Grice paired up with Tombs, with Rainey and Shortt winning both their rubbers, taking the second rubber in a close final set tie-break 1-0 (10-8).

Grice and Tombs let a two match point lead go in their first rubber to lose out on a final set tie-break, but they made sure of Oswestry's continuation in Group 3 next season r with a good 3-6, 6-2, 1-0 victory in the second rubber.

The mens second team also found themselves in a similar situation - but at the upper end of the table in Group 5N.

With two home fixtures to play and three teams on the same points, the team pulled out all the stops with some very strong performances to gain promotion with two excellent victories.

In their penultimate fixture against Norton-in-Hales, the first pair of captain Dave Clough and Brett Hollywell dropped their first rubber 6-7, 3-6, but bounced back to take their second with a double bagel over their opponents 6-0, 6-0.

The second pair of Dave Bass and Nick Elliott easily took their first rubber 6-1, 6-0, but were made to fight very hard in their second before prevailing on the deciding third set tie break 6-3, 6-7, 1-0 to give the team a valuable three points.

Their final fixture was against Market Drayton and a change in the team line-up by captain Clough was crucial when he partnered Dave Bass to win their first rubber 6-2, 7-6 before dropping their second 0-6, 2-6.

The second pair of Hollywell and Peter Scott showed their mettle, needing two deciding third set tie breaks in winning both their matches 6-1, 4-6, 1-0 and 5-7, 7-5, 1-0 to give the team another overall three points to secure them a promotion place into Group 4 next season.

Olympians hit ground running



The Olympians at the Helena Tipping 10k race and (below) record-breaking Susie Hancock

OSWESTRY Olympian Susie Hancock was in record breaking form with a superb five-mile run.

Hancock broke the five-mile F55 club record held by Barbara Ward when clocking 38.05 in Dolgellau, and narrowly missed out on the F55 course record by just six seconds.

A strong entry of Olympians took part in the Helena 10k near Wrexham on a warm but windy day, with Pete Jones leading the way in a time of 38.54 to finish sixth in the Vet40.

Ian Lowe and Dave Newtown also finished sixth in their respective categories, Vet 45 and Vet 50, while Steve Roberts completed a second place in his Vet 60 category.

Results

29 Pete Jones 38:54 Vet 40, 6; 40 Ian Lowe 39:47 Vet 45, 6; 47 Dave Newton 40:28 Vet 50, 6; 68 Dave Card 42:31 Senior Male, 31; 83 Steve Roberts 43:15 Vet 60, 2; 102 Mike Kirk 44:28 Vet 50, 11; 169 Jude Hughes 48:00 Vet 40, 3; 217 Yvonne Hill 49:56 Vet 50, 4; 224 Stephen Humphreys 49:52 Vet 40, 32; 250 Jules Lloyd-Evans 51:16 Vet 45, 5.



Ellesmere suffer heavy defeat on a wet weekend

ELLESMERE suffered a day to forget as they crashed to a 158-run defeat to title chasing Allscott in the Henshalls Shropshire League division two.

Lying third in the table, the Meresiders needed a win to keep in touch with the pacesetters, but were well beaten after being skittled for just 69 in response to 227-2.

In a game reduced to 35 overs a side due to the rain, Allscott's batsmen were in blistering form with three half centuries.

Jason Allen top scored with an unbeaten 73, while Shaun Rigby finished on 59 not out in a century stand for the third wicket while opener Carl Starling had earlier hit 56. There was a wicket apiece for George Duncan and Fraser Duncan.

Ellesmere's batting crumbled for just 69 in reply, Alex Duncan (15) top scoring as Chris Starling picked up 4-15.

FRANKTON eased their relegation concerns in division one with a five wicket success at Madeley.

The bowlers soon had Madeley on the back foot, dismissing their hosts for 115 in 28.4 overs and, despite rain, the visitors got home for the loss of five wickets as they chased down a revised target of 96.

Stuart Lammie was the star of the show, taking 6-29 off 10 overs and Abdullah Asif 3-38 to keep a tight rein on their rivals for whom opening bat Doug Reynolds top scored on 32.

Rain meant a revised run chase, with Ian Whitticase leading the way at the top of the order with 28 before Sam Todd finished things off with an unbeaten 19 to seal a welcome 19 points.

Clubs took part in a minute's applause before their games in memory of Montgomery's young cricketer James Corfield.

Second half fightback for Guils at Bala

A SECOND half fight back saw Guilsfield continue their pre-season preparations with a creditable 2-2 draw at Welsh Premier side Bala Town.

The Guils had trailed at the break to goals from Mike Hayes and Nathan Burke, but rallied after the interval when Jake Cook weaved his way through to pull one back before Robbie James headed a late leveller.

Bala began brightly and took the lead after just two minutes when Hayes connected perfectly to a delivery from the left to head home.

The chances continued for Bala who doubled their lead after 20 minutes when Nathan Burke received the ball on the edge of the area, ran along the 18-yard line and unleashed a shot into the back of the net.

Jordan Evans saw his 25 yard strike saved before ex-Welshpool midfielder Chris Venables rattled the base of the post before the interval.

The second half saw numerous substitutions which disrupted the tempo and shape of the encounter on the 3G at Maes Tegid.

A good move between Hayes and Ian Sheridan allowed Andrai Jones to find space but the front man rattled the bar before Hayes drove a spectacular scissor kick over the woodwork from 10 yards.

The Guils rallied with Jake Cook reducing the deficit midway through the second half when he took advantage after Town lost possession before weaving through the defence and slotting into the bottom corner.

Andrai Jones wasted a good chance at the other end before an increasingly confident Guilsfield deservedly earned parity in the dying moments when Robbie James nodded in from a corner.

Dream start for Glas skipper Edgerton

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

STAND-IN skipper Gaz Edgerton had a dream start to his captaincy as Cae Glas romped to their most emphatic victory of the season at Much Wenlock to revive their challenge in the Henshalls Shropshire League division three.

Having won the toss and invited the home side to bat, Edgerton took the first wicket himself in his first over as the visitors bounced back from two successive defeats.

That was the start of a superb fielding display from Cae Glas which saw George Jones, Andy Hughes, Matt Coulson, Ben Hipkiss and Bobby Phillips all take blinding catches as some kamikaze batting from Wenlock saw them dismissed for just 53 in 22 overs.

Andy Hughes took 2-12 in his three overs, while Edgerton and the unlucky George Jones took a wicket each.

However, the star of the show was Matt Coulson who took a career best six wickets for just four runs as he ran through the home batting line-up.

In reply, Cae Glas had little trouble over taking

the modest total, and reached their target in just 16 overs, Ben Hipkiss making a welcome return to form with an unbeaten 33 as they moved to 54 for the loss of just one wicket.

A depleted CAE GLAS II suffered a narrow 11-run loss to Much Wenlock II to remain in the lower reaches of the 2nd XI League division three.

Before the game, both sides joined in generous applause in respect for Montgomeryshire cricketer James Corfield.

In a 35 overs a side affair with thunder and heavy showers all around, Wenlock were put in to bat and it looked like being another huge total to chase as Louis Irvine smashed 69, supported by Andrew Marlow (37n).

But there were also five ducks in the innings as Cae Glas bowlers stuck to their task and bowled Much Wenlock out in the last of the 35 overs for 152.

Wickets were shared between Simon Dean (3-21), Alex Carter (3-23) and Shaun Southern (2-48) and all round it was a great effort in the field as the home team, plagued by injuries, only had eight players.

Cae Glas started steadily in reply, Nick Chesters hitting 21, then Simon Dean (19) and Shaun Southern (18) keeping their side within reach, but once the latter two were out in quick succession the task became much harder.

Liam Penrose then hit 24 not out, but tight bowling from Marlow (2-11) meant that Cae Glas ended up 11 runs short on 141-6. It was a great effort but ultimately another defeat.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY II racked up a resounding 154-run triumph against Cound II in the 2nd XI League division one.

Thomas Dix smashed 82, and Martin Ford an unbeaten 64 as Knockin posted a daunting 289-5 in 40 overs. Dix then took two wickets, as did Floyd Owen and Richard Williams as 10-man Cound were limited to 135-9 in reply.

Gray day as seconds slip

A SIX-wicket burst from Nicholas Gray sent Oswestry II spiralling to a nine wicket defeat at home to Bridgnorth II in the Birmingham League Division Two 2nd XI (North).

Put in to bat, the Morda Road hosts slumped to 91 all out in the 35th over, opener Matt Whitbread top scoring on 29, while Gray finished with an impressive 6-8 off 7.5 overs.

In reply, Bridgnorth cruised to their target with Ben Lees finishing on 48 not out and fellow opener Andrew Carson making 30 before being bowled by Josh Kirk.

Defeat leaves Oswestry fourth from bottom, while Bridgnorth are up to fifth in the table.

Lack of players saw **OSWESTRY III** concede their clash away to Coton Hall in the Shropshire League division four.

Sport

Tennis
Oswestry finish
with flourish – P39

Football
Berriew crowned
cup kings – P38



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Atherton in fifth spot at Canada race

RACHEL Atherton had to settle for a fifth place finish in round six of the 2017 UCI Mountain Bike Downhill World Cup in Mont St Anne, Canada.

Having dislocated her shoulder at Fort William earlier in the season, it has been a tough campaign for the Llanrhaeadr ace who has since shown all her resolve to get back in the saddle with some plucky rides.

The record breaking 29-year-old finished second in the previous round in Lenzerheide in Switzerland, while successfully defending her women's crown at the HSBC UK National Downhill Championships in north Wales.

But her hopes of another podium place in the women's elite faded when she just managed to hang on after coming unstuck on the rocks on a slippery course in Canada following heavy rain.

The former Marches School pupil finished in four minutes 59.54, just behind Emilie Siegenthaler who clocked 4.59.47, but almost 13 seconds off the pace.

The race was won by fellow Brit Tahnee Seagrave in 4.46.72 for her second win of the season, with series leader Myriam Nicole second in 4.52.46 and Tracey Hannah (4.58.77) third.

Atherton's hopes of retaining her UCI Mountain Bike Downhill World Cup title are long gone, lying fifth in the standings on 637 points.

French ace Myriam Nicole leads the way with 980 points, from Hannah (900) and Seagrave (819).

Atherton's brother Gee had an awesome run to finish 17th in the men's race after conditions were made all the more testing by a heavy rain storm.

Gee, who like his sister also races for Trek Factory Racing, clocked 4.24.77 - 6.35 seconds off the winner Aaron Gwin (4.18.42).

The seventh round of the UCI World Cup takes place in Val Di Sole, Italy, on Sunday, August 27, before concluding in Cairns, Australia, on Sunday, September

Davies delighted at his marathon effort

LONG distance runner Andy Davies savoured an 'incredible' atmosphere as he sealed a 31st place finish in the marathon at the World Athletic Championships in London.

Making his championships debut, the Forden ace clocked a time of two hours 17.59 minutes, beating his Welsh compatriot Josh Griffiths who finished 39th in a time of 2:20.06.

"It was incredible, you had to lap all the atmosphere up," Davies said.

Kenya's Geoffrey Kirui won gold with a season's best of 2:08.27.

Ratcliffe on way

FORMER Everton and Wales defender Kevin Ratcliffe will be guest speaker at Llanrhaeadr FC's gentleman's afternoon at the village hall on Sunday, September 3.

Cricketers aim to home in on title bid

AFTER again being frustrated by the rain, Oswestry's promotion chasing cricketers will hope for improved weather for Saturday's Birmingham League division two encounter at home to Old Hill (midday).

Not a ball was bowled in their trip to third placed Halesowen following two tremendous storms, which saw the Morda Road side relinquish top spot to Fordhouses who picked up 15 points from their winning draw with Harborne.

Having to settle for five points, Oswestry are now one point adrift of the leaders in second position, while they are 32 points clear of third placed Pershore who also managed to get in some play in

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

collecting 14 points from their game against Old Hill. The Morda Road men have suffered at the hands of the weather this season, which was all the more frustrating as their closest rivals picked up a healthy haul of points.

"That's the third time this season Fordhouses have got a result while we've been rained off," said captain Robbie Clarke. "It's frustrating, but there's nothing you can do about the weather."

The weather also hit several fixtures elsewhere, with WELSHPOOL frustrated as their clash

away to basement strugglers Lilleshall in the Shropshire League division one was washed out without a ball being bowled.

MONTGOMERY are away to Forton in the same division as they look to push further clear of basement danger, while Knockin & Kinnerley - also wiped out last weekend - head to Alberbury.

Montgomery played their first game since the tragic death of their team-mate James Corfield when Alberbury were the visitors last weekend.

Players wore blue armbands decorated with a blue heart and James' nickname 'Jimmy', while they held a minute's applause before the poignant encounter.

CHAMPS TNS ALL SET TO GO

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

AFTER their record breaking exploits of last season, The New Saints will want to lay down an early marker when they launch the defence of their Welsh Premier crown at Bangor City on Friday night (7.45).

A seventh successive title will be the target for new manager Scott Ruscoe and assistant Steve Evans, who have taken the reins following Craig Harrison's departure to Hartlepool.

Last term will be a tough act to follow, with the defending champions starting off with a world record 27 straight victories.

They went on to lift the crown by a mammoth 27 points, but the likes of Bala Town, Connah's Quay and Bangor City will hope to provide a sterner challenge this time around.

The bookies, however, see no end to the Saints' dominance this season, with Corbett Sports installing the full-timers as hot 1/5 favourites to lift the crown for the 12th time in their history.

New boss Ruscoe is relishing the challenge, which starts with a tricky trip to Bangor who ran out 3-0 winners at their Nantporth Stadium when the sides met late last season.

"I'm sure Bangor are going to come out of the traps just like Connah's Quay and Bala. They're looking strong and will want to push us," he said.

"Everyone's talking about how much those teams are improving, but we have also shown improvements ourselves, and there's no reason why the club shouldn't be as successful or even more successful in the future.

"We've got a tough start with Bangor and then Bala, but everyone's ready to go and looking forward to the challenge. If we can get some positive results early on, it will put us a step ahead."

Ruscoe admits there are still a couple of places still up for grabs as he weighs up the make-up of both the starting XI and bench for Friday night.

Rugby club back in training



Winger Craig Richardson-Howell in full flight as he makes a tackle during a training session

OSWESTRY Rugby Club have started pre-season training early to get to grips with their new challenge in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

After last term's tough campaign, the club are determined to get back on track this season under new senior rugby coach Kev Whitehead and conditioning coach Daffyd Rowlands.

The coaching team have been extremely pleased with the turnout and effort from the players which has seen some excellent rugby sessions.

The men's seniors and under-18 colts train on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 pm, the women's team train on Wednesdays (7-9 pm)

while there are training sessions for juniors on Sundays (10-12midday).

The senior section of the club have been given equipment by Net World Sports which was an extremely positive start to the season.

New chairman Simon Lakin and director of rugby Warren Howell are also delighted with the effort as the club shapes up for the new season.

For all information regarding joining the club, please contact Warren Howell on 07866-655335 or Martin Ord on 07185-127470.

Oswestry's first team get their league season underway on Saturday, September 2 when they visit Dukinfield.

Town back with opener at Park Hall

FC OSWESTRY Town get their new season under way in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one when they host AFC Blackpool at Park Hall on Saturday (3pm).

After a solid first season in the league, Town will be out to cement their place among the upper echelons under the new management team of Richard Williams-Cooke and Ryan Butcher.

It has been a busy pre-season, with Town's preparations not going to plan last weekend when losing 7-0 to Market Drayton Town in their final friendly.

A few days before, they overcame Spar League side Llanfair United 3-2 in a friendly with Brendon Price netting the winner eight minutes from time.

Llanfair had taken a 22nd minute lead through Alun Hughes, with Harrison Millington levelling matters at the break on 35 minutes.

Half-time substitute Jack Harris made it 2-1 and, despite a reply from Andrew Hughes, Price popped up for the winner.

Town have strengthened with a number of recruits during the summer, with front runner Jacob Farleigh joining on loan from neighbours The New Saints.

ST MARTINS, who opened with a 2-1 loss at Bromyard, bid for their first points of the season in the West Midlands League division one when they head to Darlaston Town on Saturday (3pm).

Guildsfield heading to seaside for the league kick-off

GUILDSFIELD are braced for an early challenge in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance when they head to the coast on Saturday to take on newcomers Rhyl (2.30).

Under new manager Nathan Leonard, the Guilds have had an encouraging pre-season which saw them hit back to earn a 2-2 draw at Welsh Premier outfit Bala Town in their final friendly thanks to second half goals from Jake Cook and Robbie James.

They now face another test against big guns Rhyl who, having been relegated from the Welsh Premier last season, will be one of the favourites to challenge for honours.

"Rhyl have a lot of new players so may take time to settle, but we know it's going to be a tough," said Leonard.

"They will be favourites, everyone expects them to win, but we will go there with the belief that we can get something from the game.

"The lads were spot-on in the second half against Bala, and put in place everything that was asked off them."

The Guilds are likely to be without Calum Bromley who picked up a hamstring strain in the game, but other injuries should clear up.

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